

In both Houses it is the duty of members to read petitions which are sent to them before they are presented, lest any violation of the rules of the House should be apparent on the face of them; in which case it is their duty not to offer them to the House. If the Speaker observes or any member takes notice of any irregularity, the member having charge of the petition does not bring it up, but returns it to the petitioners.

#### EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION.

Mr. MOWAT rose to move for a Select Committee on the question of exemption, when

Mr. LAUDER said he hoped the order would be allowed to stand until the leader of the Opposition was present.

The order was allowed to stand.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Hay—On Tuesday next—Bill entitled an Act to amend the Municipal Act in respect to jurisdiction of county councils over bridges in township and county lines, and connecting leading roads within the county.

Also—On Tuesday next—Bill entitled an Act in respect to the Inspectors of Public Schools.

Also—On Tuesday next—Bill entitled an Act to amend the Municipal Act in respect to municipal electors.

Mr. Clarke (North Norfolk)—On Tuesday next—A Bill entitled an Act to amend the Municipal Franchise, and to make provision for other purposes.

Mr. Wills—On Tuesday next—Order of the House for a return of all accidents and casualties (whether to life or property) which have occurred on railways in the Province of Ontario under the jurisdiction of the Legislature of the said Province for the year 1877, which shall set forth:—1st. The names of the respective companies. 2nd. The causes and nature of such accidents and casualties. 3rd. The points at which they respectively occurred, and whether by day or night. 4th. The full extent thereof, and all the particulars of the same. Also Bill to amend the Assessment Act.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Public Accounts Committee met this morning, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair. There were present also Messrs. Wood, Ballantyne, Striker, Meredith, Deacon, Gibson, Williams, Wills, and Ferris.

The Committee proceeded to examine the Public Accounts for 1875, beginning at page 55, under the head of Education, where they left off at the last meeting.

Mr. DEACON wished to know what the duties of the clerks of references and of reports and returns in the Education Office were.

Mr. WOOD said they kept charge of all returns and reports and of the reference book. Their duties were those of ordinary clerks, and were very useful.

Mr. MEREDITH wished to see the particulars of law costs, amounting to \$149, paid to D. Black. He also asked for papers explaining the item of sundry newspapers, including subscriptions, advertising, &c., as follows:—Education office, \$174 90; *Journal of Education*, \$108 96; and museum, \$15 67.

Mr. WOOD remarked that it had always been the practice to have newspapers sent to the Education Office for the use of the Minister, the Deputy Ministers, and others. Those for the *Journal of Education*, he believed, were exchanges, as that paper could not be well conducted without them.

Under the head of Public Institutions Maintenance,

Mr. MEREDITH asked for information with reference to the School of Practical Science.

Mr. WOOD stated that the school was not going on at present. A new building for it was being erected near the University. The Government was only asking for a partial vote this year.

Mr. MEREDITH thought it had been practically a mechanics' institute for Toronto so far.

Mr. WOOD—There is no doubt about that.

Mr. WOOD wished papers to be brought down to show the system of check on the expenditure of immigration agencies in Europe, amounting altogether to \$16,492. He also asked for the details with reference to the item of \$7,364 for "Provisions and Medical Attendance," under the head of Immigration.

Mr. WOOD said the agents in Europe had to submit an account of their expenditures, and to accompany it with vouchers. With regard to the item of \$23,436 for assistance to emigrants, he explained that the system, which was now in existence only to a certain extent, was to aid emigrants in coming to the country and settling here, and also in bringing their friends over. The matter was principally left in the hands of the Commissioner.

Several gentlemen asked that papers or persons might be brought before the Committee on the following items:—Commissions to temporary immigration agents, \$5,022; David Mills, services re North-west Boundary, \$440; grant to Ontario Rifle Association, \$600; expenses of Returning-officers for Hastings, North and East, Kent East, London, Muskoka, Middlesex East, Ontario North, Oxford, South and North, Victoria South, and Welland; pay lists to men employed on settlers' homesteads, \$1,147; sums paid to contractors for work on colonization roads—John Carroll, Pigeon River, \$3,578; D. M. Card, Muskoka, \$1,900; Hon. B. Flint, bridgewater, \$250, and C. F. Aylesworth, Monk River road, and for locations, \$600; salaries of J. B. McWilliams, \$1,190, and J. F. Way, \$2,062, as agents for Crown lands; and the expenses of the Scott frauds commission, amounting to \$7,700.

This concluded the selection of items from the accounts of 1872, and the Committee adjourned till Tuesday.