

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Third Parliament—Third Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

TORONTO, Jan. 28.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers were read by the Rev. Dr. Topp.

REPORT OF ESTATE COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. SPEAKER presented a report from the Commissioners of Estates suggesting amendments to the Good Templars' and the Port Whitby Harbour Bills.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Sinclair—Of the Township Council of the united townships of Medora and Wood; also, of John Board and others, of Wood, severally praying that no Act may pass to erect the Provisional County of Muskoka.

Mr. Deroche—Of E. D. O'Flynn, *et al.*, of Madoc; also, of J. N. Moore, *et al.*, of Madoc, praying that the Bill now before the House respecting the Belleville and North Hastings Railway may not pass.

Mr. Massie—Of the County Council of Wellington, praying for certain amendments to the Voters' Lists Act of 1876.

Mr. Brown—Of the Town Council of Whitby; also, of J. H. Long, *et al.*, of Whitby, severally praying for the abolition of exemptions.

AID TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) presented a petition for increased aid to the South Oxford Agricultural Society. He submitted that to petition was an Englishman's right, which no by-laws could take away.

Mr. ROSEVEAR believed in obeying his superiors, and if the presentation of such petitions was contrary to the rules of the House he did not desire to present any. He wished, however, to offer a petition from the Agricultural Society of East Durham, asking for an enlargement of the moneys they have had. (Laughter.)

Other petitions of a similar character were presented by Messrs. Hunter and Creighton.

Mr. MOWAT said if such petitions were against the rules they ought not to be presented. If the rules are bad they should be corrected, but so long as they are rules of the House they ought to be acted up to. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAMERON said he was not in the House when this matter came up on a previous occasion; but he did not understand that such petitions could not be received. The object of the rule is to ascertain whether there is anything improper in the form of petitions—anything reflecting upon any person, or any language which ought not to be permitted—before they are read.

Mr. LAUDER said this matter was becoming quite a grievance, because people were precluded from petitioning the House on any subject whatever affecting an increase in the public expenditure. He had always been of opinion that this rule required modification so far as provincial legislation was concerned. Some action ought to be taken by which the views of members could be ascertained on this question.

Mr. SPEAKER said in referring to this matter on Friday he did not give any decision, but simply stated what was the practice in the English House of Commons.

The subject then dropped.

COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. DEROCHE presented the eighth report of the Committee on Standing Orders, which was adopted.

RECORD OF BONDS AND SECURITIES.

Mr. HARDY presented a detailed statement of all bonds and securities recorded in the Provincial Registrar's office since January 10, 1877.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time.—

Mr. Cameron—To enable the Corporation of Leeds and Grenville to sell certain lands.

Mr. Cameron—Respecting the Toronto and Nipissing Railway Company.

Mr. Cameron—To incorporate the Toronto Stock Exchange Company.

Mr. Cameron—Respecting the Elmsley estate.

Mr. Cameron—For the relief of W. H. Bell and others.

Mr. Massie—Respecting the Galt and Guelph Railway Company.

Mr. Massie—To convert a burial ground in the town of Guelph into a park.

Mr. Clarke (Wellington)—Respecting the Credit Valley Railway Company.

Mr. Scott—Relating to the town of Peterborough.

Mr. Scott—Relating to the Midland Railway Company of Canada.

Mr. Scott—Respecting the Toronto and Ottawa Railway Company.

Mr. Mowat—Respecting the equalization of the Assessment Roll of the county of Oxford.

Mr. Dawson—To reclaim swamp lands on the Scugog River.

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT FUND.

Mr. LAUDER moved for an Order of the House for a return of receipts and expenditures in detail relating to the Endowment Fund of the University of Toronto and University or Upper Canada College since date of last return; also, a statement of moneys spent on new structures, and of moneys borrowed (if any), and on what security, in connection with said institutions respectively during the same period; also, copies of all Orders in Council passed by the Government relating to said institutions since date of last session. He made this motion for a return in continuation of a return made last year covering the period from 1867 to last year. The Senate of the University had made no return of their receipts and expenditures since Confederation until such a return was asked for by an order of this House, and when it was brought down, it revealed a state of things which required the notice of the Government and the House. He quoted figures to show the state of the finances of the University of Toronto, University College, and Upper Canada College. In 1867 the income of the two former institutions was \$49,630. It had steadily increased till in 1876 it amounted to \$59,617. The expenditure kept pace with the income. In 1867 it amounted to \$48,471, in 1874 to \$71,334, or about \$20,000 over and above the income, and in 1876 to \$58,558, a little less than the income for that year. Where the money came from to meet the large excess of expenditure over the income in 1874 he did not know, for the law did not permit the Senate to make away with the capital of the Province without the consent of the Legislature. Whether or not they had obtained the consent of the Government did not appear, but he thought the House should have some information on that point. During the past year new buildings have been erected on the Upper Canada College grounds. He thought the expense of them could not have been defrayed out of the endowment fund of that institution. In 1867 the income amounted to \$14,193, and in 1876 to \$16,749. The expenditure, however, had correspondingly increased, so that the capital must have been drawn on for the erection of these buildings, or, as had been stated outside, money had been borrowed upon the hypothecation of some of the securities of the University endowment fund. If the latter was the case, the Senate had, by thus pledging the credit of the Province, violated the statute regulating the institution and one of the first principles which controlled the Government and the House. He made this motion in order that the Minister of Education might explain how the money was obtained for the erection of these buildings. He was not blind to the good work the University and Upper Canada College were doing, but he