

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Third Parliament—Third Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

Friday, Feb. 1.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers were read by the Rev. Dr. Topp.

ESTATE BILLS.

Mr. Speaker presented a report of the Commissioners on Estate Bills, containing their opinions on the following Bills:—To convert a burying-ground in Guelph into a park or pleasure ground; respecting the counties of Leeds and Grenville; respecting the Elmsley estate; and respecting the estate of the late Thomas Bell.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Currie—Of the County Council of Welland, for amendments to the Municipal Act.

By Mr. McCraney—Of Township Council of Romney, praying for certain amendments to the Drainage Act.

By Mr. Dawson—Of R. A. Lyon *et al.*, of Algoma, praying for the readjustment of the representation of the District of Algoma.

By Mr. O'Donohue—Of James Hope *et al.*, praying for the abolition of exemptions.

By Mr. O'Sullivan—Of the Village Council of Lakefield, praying for the abolition of exemptions.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. Fraser presented the fourth report of the Committee on Private Bills, which was adopted.

DIVISION COURTS.

Mr. Hardy presented the report of the Inspector of Division Courts for the year 1877.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

The following Bills were introduced and read for the first time:—

Mr. Currie—To amend the Division Courts Act.

Mr. Hay—To amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Ross—Respecting the election of School Trustees in cities, towns, and villages.

Mr. Hay—Respecting Public School Inspectors.

Mr. Meredith—To amend the law respecting Mutual Insurance Companies.

Also—To amend cap. 164 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, entitled, "An Act respecting Building Societies."

STANDING OF GAOLERS.

Mr. DEROCHE asked whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce an Act during the present session to make gaolers throughout the Province Government officials, and liberate them from the control of the Sheriffs.

Mr. MOWAT—It is not the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce such a Bill as that mentioned.

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

Mr. LAUDER moved for an order of the House for copies of all correspondence between the Minister of Education or his Department and the publishing house of Adam Miller & Co., and all other publishers, and also with any member of the Central Committee, relating to the discontinuance of the *Journal of Education*, and the establishment and publication of the *Canada School Journal*, and the granting of a subsidy to the said Adam Miller & Co., connected with the last named publication, together with copies of all Orders in Council passed relative to the *Journal of Education* and the *Canada School Journal*. He said it appeared from evidence given before a Commissioner appointed by the Government that the *Journal of Education*, a publication authorized by the House, and for which money was voted by the House,

had been discontinued by the Government since last session. He did not know on what authority this had been done; and he observed that the revised statutes gave the Minister of Education authority to continue the publication of that paper and its gratuitous circulation among the trustees of the Province. He contended that the Government had no right to stop that publication, and divert the money appropriated to it for another purpose. He also observed that the Government had undertaken to subsidise a publishing house in this city at the rate of \$50 a month for the publication of a journal not authorized by the House, thus giving the publishing house in question to some extent their patronage. It appeared, however, that nothing had yet been paid in accordance with the agreement. The Government should, he thought, have submitted that agreement to the House before concluding it.

Mr. CROOKS said the notice was rather too wide in terms, but so far as the substance of it was concerned, there could of course be no objection to giving the House the fullest information. The papers asked for had been prepared, and would, he supposed, be shortly brought down. There had not been any correspondence with reference to the granting of a subsidy or the payment of a sum of money, and he proposed that the motion should be amended in that respect. Neither had there been any correspondence with any other house besides the one mentioned, but he had no objection to letting that part of the motion stand. So far as the *Journal of Education* was concerned, when he took charge of the Department in 1876, he had to consider the question of its publication with other questions in order to present to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council his views on the subject. The first recommendation, which would be found among the papers, was that, having regard to the circumstance that there was in the Province no educational paper specially devoted to educational subjects and conducted by private enterprise, the *Journal of Education* might be continued. In the session of 1877 there was another discussion as to the propriety of continuing a large expenditure for the purposes of the *Journal*, and the hon. member for London (Mr. Meredith) ventured to suggest that the only value derived from the paper during 1876 was the publication of the proceedings of Teachers' Associations. As to the question of its usefulness, he (Mr. Crooks) came to the conclusion that whenever a paper published by private enterprise in the interests of education in Ontario made its appearance, then the *Journal of Education* should be discontinued. In the month of June last he accidentally saw a copy of a paper called the *Canada School Journal*, and finding that the editor and the contributors were gentlemen specially interested in education, and who represented every branch of the profession of teaching, he was only too glad to bring up the question before the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and to make a recommendation setting forth the special reasons why the *Journal of Education* should be discontinued and that an arrangement should be made with the publisher of the *Canada School Journal*. The arrangement financially was greatly more advantageous than the previous one. It was arranged that the *Journal of Education* should be discontinued after the end of the first half year of 1877, and the arrangements made with the publishers of the other paper at a cost of \$300 were, so far as educational interests were concerned, quite as ample as those provided formerly at a cost of over \$2,000. The arrangement was entirely temporary and experimental. It was almost the unanimous opinion of the House that the *Journal of Education* but very imperfectly fulfilled the objects which were expected of it. He was always glad to take advantage of suggestions, from whatever quarter, relating to the subject of education, and he had spent considerable time in obtaining information; but any conclusions to which he had arrived had been formed independently of the opinions of any one else. In this particular matter, he could say with the utmost free-