

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Third Parliament—Third Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

Monday, Feb. 18.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers were read by the Rev. Dr. Castle (Baptist).

PETITIONS.

The following petition were presented :—

By Mr. Mostyn—From George A. Kirkpatrick and others, of Ottawa, praying for certain amendments to the Game Law.

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

Mr. Mowat introduced a Bill respecting landlords and tenants.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Mr. Mowat's Bill respecting the winding-up of joint stock companies was read the third time and passed.

THE WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

Mr. MEREDITH, in moving the third reading of the Bill to incorporate the Western University of London, regretted that his hon. friend from North Bruce (Mr. Sinclair) had thought it proper to give notice of an amendment to deprive this institution of university powers. He fully sympathized with those who were in favour of one university in this Province, but it seemed to him that it would be unfair, in the existing state of affairs, not to extend to the Western University the privileges that were enjoyed by several universities in the eastern part of the Province. The principal object was to secure a high standard of education, which he thought the Bill fully provided for. The University could not commence operations until it had obtained \$110,000, and had four professors. He believed it would be impossible for a Government in this Province, however strong, to take away university powers from the four or five universities besides the University of Toronto. He believed also that it would be a difficult thing to induce the people of this Province by any sum of money, to relinquish those several universities. When, therefore, the people living in the Diocese of Huron, containing almost half the population of the Province, applied for the privileges of higher education, they should not be denied to them. If university powers were not granted, the efforts of the gentlemen who had been labouring on behalf of the institution would be rendered utterly abortive. The Bishop of Huron, whose exertions on behalf of higher education were a standing monument to him, had, by the aid of a number of other gentlemen, already secured \$30,000, and steps had been taken to acquire property for the purposes of the University. All these efforts would be entirely thrown away if university powers were not granted. Besides that, the promoters of the University had received assurances of support from England and elsewhere in the event of its obtaining university powers. To refuse these would be practically to refuse what was asked. The Synod of Huron, composed of a large number of clerical and lay representatives, had adopted a resolution requesting him to proceed with the establishment of this University. A provision had been inserted in the Bill that the Legislature might withdraw the university powers at any time, so that it might become affiliated with the Provincial University. In view of that, and in view of the exertions of the various gentlemen who had interested themselves on behalf of the institution, he did not believe that the House would refuse what he asked. He himself was in favour of but one university in Ontario, but he thought it would be an injustice to deny privileges to the people living in the western section of the Province that were so fully enjoyed by those in the east.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that there was a principle involved in this Bill which the House should not approve without due con-