

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## Third Parliament—Third Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
Wednesday, Feb. 20.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers were read by the Rev. Joseph D. King (Baptist).

### PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Broder—Of James Corry, *et al.* of Mountain, praying for the removal of a dam on Petit Nation River.

Mr. Wilson—Of the County Council of Elgin, praying for certain amendments to the Railway Act.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. BETHUNE presented the report of the Committee on the Bill respecting High Schools.

Mr. CLARKE (Wellington) presented the first report of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. WOOD presented the report of the Committee on the Bills respecting line fences, ditching, and the appointment of county valuers.

### THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time:—

Relating to the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway Company—Mr. Williams.

Respecting the Registration of Railway Aid Scrip—Mr. Wood.

### SUPPLY.

The House then again went into Committee of Supply, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair.

The following items stood:

Institution for the Blind, Brantford, \$12,740 for salaries, \$28,015 for expenses.

Immigration, \$37,500.

On the item \$103,450 for Agriculture, Arts, Literary and Scientific Institutes,

Inquiries relative to the grant to the Hamilton Horticultural Society, printing of reports, bureau of statistics, the Museum of Seeds, &c., which were replied to by Mr. Wood, after which,

Mr. MEREDITH said that he thought more money should be given to Mechanics' Institutes to enable them to establish schools of design. The mechanical and artizan class' interests should not be ignored. He hoped that the Minister would care for this in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. WOOD said the Government had under consideration such an application from London and Toronto.

The item was then passed.

On the item of \$66,638 for hospitals and charities,

Mr. CAMERON complained that there was not sufficient aid given towards the maintenance of hospitals in comparison with what was granted to insane asylums in the Province.

Mr. MACDGUGALL (Simcoe) referred to a petition in favour of the establishment of hospitals for incurables, which he considered was worthy of the consideration of the Government.

Mr. WOOD agreed with the last two speakers as to the great advantage of the institutions to which they referred, and thought the Government would probably be disposed to consider their suggestions.

Mr. ROSS agreed with the hon. member for South Simcoe as to the desirability of the Government adopting some broad and liberal scheme for the care of incurables. Many municipalities were now supporting this class of sufferers at their own expense. He commended the Government for their liberal policy with regard to hospitals and charities, but he thought the cities were receiving more aid than the rural districts.

Mr. LAUDER wanted to know the reason that two hospitals were aided at Guelph.

He considered that it would be better to have a few good hospitals in the cities than a large number of poor ones scattered through the country.

Mr. WOOD denied that there was any partiality exercised by the Government. The hospitals received aid according to results, and the work at Guelph, instead of being confined to one hospital, was divided between two—one a Protestant and the other a Roman Catholic.

Mr. WILSON considered that the hospitals in cities were not receiving any too much aid from the Government in view of the great good they were doing.

Mr. GIBSON said that the hospitals were of greater benefit to the cities in which they were situated than to the country, and the cities should take into consideration the large grants given in their aid by the Government when they demanded the abolition of tax exemptions.

Mr. HODGINS thought it would be worth the consideration of the Government whether they should not encourage the establishment of poor houses throughout the Province. There were only four counties in which the municipal authorities had established such institutions. He did not think they should be supported at the unaided expense of the municipalities which established them.

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) said that the poor from all parts of the Province were sent to the Toronto Hospital, and these persons were generally counted as belonging to Toronto. ("No, no.") He knew that to be the fact, and it was done because they had no status. If poor houses were made imperative throughout the country, it would relieve the Toronto Hospital of many patients that were sent there now.

Mr. BARR was of opinion that the country municipalities should be aided more than they were by the Government, and that they should be assisted in establishing poor houses.

Mr. MILLER was opposed to increasing the present tax upon the revenue of the Province for the support of charitable institutions. He did not think there was any injustice in the system now in vogue of granting aid to these institutions, but he preferred that the charitable among the people should be required to support them, and that the habit of looking to the Government for everything should be discouraged.

Mr. BAXTER referred to the system recently established in connection with the Toronto Hospital, of admitting four patients for treatment on receipt of \$50. This, he believed, would tend to popularize the institution, which he considered was now one of the first hospitals on this continent, and well worthy of being liberally encouraged and patronized. If county councils would avail themselves of the arrangement to which he had referred, there would be no need of their establishing local institutions, and their sick would be taken care of both cheaply and well.

Mr. FERRIS could not bring himself to the conclusion that most of the patients in the Toronto Hospital were from country districts, but he did not sympathise with those gentlemen who were in favour of the establishment of a poor-house system in this country. He believed that the system of aiding the poor by out-door relief would not only be cheaper, but more agreeable to the poor themselves than by poor-houses.

Mr. CROOKS congratulated the House upon the fact that instead of the Toronto Hospital being, as it formerly was, rather discreditable to them, it was now the model hospital of the Dominion, and now Montreal was following them instead of them following Montreal. The Hospital is now in a state of financial strength, instead of chronic embarrassment. The Hospital is now one that all others regard as the standard.

Mr. ROSS thought that the Toronto Hospital was more of a Provincial character than any other. In the case of those hospitals to which they would incline to be liberal they found that considerably less than one-half of the patients came from the outlying districts. Many of these