

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

January 16.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers were read by Rev. Mr. Young.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Lauder—From John Sloan and others, for an Act to incorporate the Grey and Walkerton Railway Company.

By Mr. McGowan—From the County Council of Wellington, for an Act to incorporate the village of Mount Forest as a town.

By Mr. Paxton—From Metcalfe Thwaite and others, for an Act to enable them to construct certain embankments on or near Lake Scugog.

By Mr. Deroche—From the Ontario Mineral Railway Company, for an Act to revive and amend the Act incorporating the Company.

By Mr. Wilson (for Mr. Williams)—From the Hamilton and North-Western Railway Company, for an Act to amend their Act of incorporation.

By Mr. Wilson—From the Brantford, Norfolk, and Port Burwell Railway Company, for an Act to extend the time for the completion of their road, and to confirm certain by-laws.

By Mr. Meredith—From Murray, Anderson, and others, for an Act empowering them to sell a certain burial plot, and to authorize them to remove the bodies therein interred. Also—From the City Council of London, for an Act to authorize the London and Port Stanley Railway Company to issue certain mortgage bonds.

By Mr. Wigle—From George Russell and others, of Leamington, for an Act to amend the Act relating to the Leamington, Comber, and Lake St. Clair Railway Company.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. DEACON, before the debate on the Address was resumed, wished to draw the attention of the Attorney-General to the fact that the time for presenting private petitions would expire on Saturday, and that from the large number of Private Bills of which notice had been given in the *Gazette*, and from the fact that no alteration could be made in the rules of the House with respect to the matter, it would be impossible that the Committees could make their reports in time.

Mr. MOWAT would consider the matter referred to by the hon. gentleman.

THE ADDRESS.

Mr. GRAHAM resumed the debate on the Address. He referred to the changes which had taken place in the *personnel* of the House since last session, paying a tribute of praise to Hon. Mr. Cameron, the late leader of the Opposition, who, he had no doubt, would do honour to the high position he now occupied. When he had heard of the election of his successor he had felt gratified; but since this debate had begun he felt compelled to modify that opinion somewhat. What did hon. gentlemen ask them to do? To repudiate their own action, and to go back upon their own signatures. If the Opposition really desired to have the indemnity reduced they would have taken a different course; but they evidently did not desire the reduction, for they had adopted the best means of having it left at the figure at which it now stood. He expressed his satisfaction that the trade of the farmers of Canada with the Old Country in cattle, butter, and cheese was increasing, and pointed to the result of that in the increased immigration into Ontario of the well-to-do class of English tenant farmers. The Ministers had been attacked because they had spoken on Dominion politics, but could any gentleman rise in his place and say that one member of the Government had not efficiently performed his duties? They had a perfect right to fight against the false issue that was raised in the country. He had never called it the "National