

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

January 31.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.
Prayers were read by Rev. Mr. Cayley.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Boulter—From the Township Council and certain ratepayers of Madoc, that no amendment may be made to the Bill before the House relating to certain bonuses to the Belleville and North Hastings Railway.

By Mr. Parkhill—From the County Council of Simcoe, for an Act fixing a license upon travelling stallions.

By Mr. Cole—From A. E. McRae and others, of Lancaster, respecting the holding of Division Courts therein.

Petitions for the incorporation of the Loyal Orange Association of Ontario East and West, by Mr. Parkhill, 13 petitions; Mr. Broder, 5; Mr. Monk, 1; Mr. Merrick, 1; Mr. Creighton, 1. Total, 21.

CIVIL CAUSES.

Mr. MONK introduced a Bill relating to the trial of civil causes, which was read a first time.

IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Mr. SINCLAIR asked whether it is the intention of the Government, now that the arbitration is finally settled, to apportion and distribute without delay to the municipalities entitled to it the sum of \$124,685 18, being the amount of the Upper Canada Improvement Fund, one of the special and trust funds declared in the award to be the property of, and to belong to, the Province of Ontario for the purposes for which they were established,

Mr. WOOD said it was the intention of the Government to apportion and distribute without delay the sum of \$124,685 18, being the amount collected between 6th March, 1861, and 1st July, 1867, on account of the lands sold between the 14th June, 1853, and the 6th March, 1861.

MAGISTRATES IN SHELBURNE.

Mr. BARR moved for order of the House for a return of copies of all correspondence relating to the appointment of the magistracy in the village of Shelburne, in the county of Dufferin.

Mr. BARR said the village of Shelburne, which had a population of six or seven hundred, and which was a centre of population with good railroad communications, was without a magistrate. Such a state of things put the inhabitants of the village to great inconvenience, and notwithstanding the fact that the attention of the Attorney-General had been repeatedly called to it no appointments had been made. One of the principal reasons why a magistrate had not been appointed was that there was no friend of hon. gentlemen opposite in the village who was capable of filling the position. The Attorney-General had been pressed to make the appointment, but he understood that he (the Attorney-General) had been told to wait until a Reformer competent to fill the position should come into the village. He was not making the motion to inconvenience hon. gentlemen opposite. (Hear, hear.) He believed that if hon. gentlemen on that side of the House should come to occupy the Treasury benches they would soon have a magistrate in the village.

Mr. MOWAT said the difficulty was generally to limit the number of appointments rather than to find suitable persons for the position. He had not found any correspondence from the locality the hon. gentleman had mentioned, with the exception of a memorial asking the Government to appoint a Police Magistrate. He had not thought that Shelburne required such an official, as appointments of that kind were only made in cases of emergency. It had been his experience that it was impossible to rely upon the representations of hon. gentlemen opposite in making appointments as magistrates. He had within the past few days obtained information that would enable him to recommend persons to supply

course of a conversation that ensued, Mr. Meredith complained that there was not a sufficient guarantee that immigrants would actually settle in the districts to which they were sent, and also that there was not a sufficient check upon Dominion agents in charging Ontario with its share of the expense of bringing out immigrants who settle in this Province. He also thought there was not care enough taken in seeing that the immigrants landed at Suspension Bridge did not go to the United States. He desired explanations of an item of \$153 for teaming immigrants to Doe Lake, made by one Harvey.

Mr. HARDY explained that these teaming expenses were due to an arrangement made with Madame Von Koerber, to take a colony of Swiss to that place.

After some unimportant discussion the Committee adjourned.