

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

Toronto, Feb. 11.

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

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Currie, from Thos. B. Wilson and others, for certain amendments to the Municipal Act respecting the tax on farm produce.

Also from Anson Garner, and others, for the same.

By Mr. Currie, from the Council of Richmond, for certain amendments to the Municipal Act, respecting the enforcement of statute labour.

By Mr. McCraney, from the County Council of Kent, for amendment to the Municipal Act respecting the issue of bonuses.

Also from the same, for certain amendments to the same respecting the number of Councillors.

Also from the same, for certain amendments to the Jury Law.

By Mr. Meredith, from Richard Sulley and others, of London, for certain amendments to the Municipal Law respecting the number of aldermen.

By Mr. Brown, from the County Council of Ontario, that the Bill before the House respecting the drainage of marsh lands on Lake Scougog may not pass in its present shape.

Also a number of petitions for Orange incorporation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Fraser presented the sixth and seventh reports of the Committee on Private Bills, which were adopted.

Mr. Crooks presented the sixth report of the Committee on Railways, which was adopted.

THE MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. WILLS introduced a Bill for the amendment of the Municipal Act. The Bill was read the first time.

Mr. ROSS introduced a Bill for the same purpose, which was also read a first time.

Mr. GRAHAM introduced a Bill providing for an amendment of the Municipal Act as regards the performance and commutation of statute labour.

Mr. MOWAT introduced a Bill for making further provision for elections to the Legislative Assembly, which, he explained, contained merely a number of isolated provisions.

The Bill was read a first time.

RAILWAY SCRIP.

The Bill to authorize the issuing of scrip for railway grants in certain cases was read a second time.

GUARANTEE COMPANIES.

The Bill to extend the right of taking security of Guarantee Companies came up for a second reading.

Mr. MOWAT explained that the statutes did not provide for the taking of security from Guarantee Companies in all cases. There was a growing feeling in the country that this security was to be preferred for several reasons to that of private individuals, and the Bill provided for the extension of the right of taking such security.

The Bill was read a second time.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

The Bill respecting the power of Mechanics' Institutes and Library Associations to deal with real estate was read a second time.

Mr. MOWAT explained that doubt had been expressed as to whether Mechanics' Institutes had the power to sell their real estate as well as acquire it. It was held by some very wise lawyers that this power was incidental to their incorporation, but this Bill was to provide a positive authority for such sales and other dealings with the estate of such societies. It provided that no transaction should be effected without the consent of the members of the Society.