

ording to the place in which the inquest was held.

Mr. MEREDITH said that for the purposes of the Act each city would be considered a county.

The Bill passed a second reading.

The following private Bills were advanced a stage:—

Mr. Cole—Respecting the Brockville Mutual Building Society.

Mr. Tooley—To consolidate the debt of the county of Middlesex.

Mr. Williams—To incorporate the Ontario Steam and Heating Company.

Mr. Williams—To incorporate the Prudential Life Assurance Company of Ontario.

Mr. Lyon—Respecting the municipality of Shuniah.

Mr. McCraney—To legalize a certain by-law of the town of Strathroy.

Mr. Sinclair—Respecting the Walkerton School lands.

Mr. Monk—Respecting Billing's Bridge, and to legalize the conveyance thereof to the Ottawa and Gloucester Road Company.

Mr. Wilson—To empower the trustees under a deed of trust made between Thomas Keenan, of the town of Lindsay, and others, to sell certain land therein mentioned.

Mr. McGowan—To incorporate the town of Mount Forest.

Mr. Wilson—To amend the Acts relating to the Brantford, Norfolk, and Port Burwell Railway Company.

Mr. Lauder—Respecting the Lake Simcoe Company Junction Railway.

Mr. Brown—To incorporate the Ontario Central Railway Company.

Mr. Scott—Respecting the township of Harvey in the county of Peterborough.

Mr. Hargraft—Respecting the Victoria College at Cobourg.

Mr. Chisholm—Relating to the Toronto Hospital.

Mr. Meredith—To authorize the sale of certain lands in the village of London East, heretofore known as the Methodist Cemetery.

Mr. Hunter—Respecting the Georgian Bay and Wellington Railway Company.

Mr. Hay—Respecting the Stratford and Huron Railway Company.

RETURNS.

Mr. HARDY presented to the House the following returns:—

Expenditure on account of the settlement of the northerly and westerly boundaries.

Report of J. Korman, Commissioner for the Province at the Paris Exposition.

Return respecting the Registry Office of Welland.

Return of all moneys received by the Bursar of the School of Agriculture and Model Farm and the value of stock, crops, &c.

Fourth Annual Report of the Ontario School of Agriculture for 1878.

Orders in Council relating to the Ladies' Benevolent and Temperance Home at St. Thomas.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

The House, on motion of Mr. Wood, went into Committee of Supply, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair. Upon the item \$111,250, for legislation,

Mr. SCOTT thought it strange that the amount of Mr. Speaker's salary named in the statute (\$1,000) had not been kept to instead of making it \$1,500 as it was in the estimates. Mr. Speaker had no duties devolving upon him except during the session, when his time was not so much taken up as those of other members.

Mr. CREIGHTON thought the office of Clerk of the Crown in Chancery might be either dispensed with or entrusted to some officer already appointed, because this clerk had nothing to do except during a general election. He considered also there were too many sessional messengers employed.

Mr. FERRIS agreed with the last speaker as to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. He would support a motion to abolish the office or amalgamate it with some other.

Mr. MEREDITH said he was bound to refer to the indemnity of members because of some remarks that had been made by the hon. the Minister of Public Works. That hon. gentleman had used pretty strong terms in expressing his opinion of the conduct of the Opposition in the matter, and had said the Government, in making the increase, only bowed to the will of the House. He (Mr. Meredith) thought it hardly fair to put upon the private members of the House the responsibility of an act that had been initiated and carried through by the Government. He had seen a statement in one of the newspapers that the Attorney-General, in making the increase, had yielded only under strong pressure. If the leader of the Government had done anything contrary to the interests of the country because of the influence brought to bear upon him, he thought a chance should be afforded for an explanation. He himself believed that the increase was a proper one, and he thought so still, and was willing, as he had always been, to take his share of the responsibility of his action.

Mr. MOWAT had not seen the statement and did not know exactly how it was expressed. Several deputations of members from both sides of the House had waited upon him, and their representations had convinced him that an increase of indemnity was reasonable and just, and therefore he concurred in it.

Mr. FRASER said no member of the Government had attempted to shirk his share of the responsibility. What he had complained of was that those who were equally to blame—if there was any blame—with the Government had taken every occasion to deny their share in the vote, and sought by moving a vote of want of confidence to turn the Government out of power for carrying out what they had themselves approved.

Mr. MEREDITH claimed that no member of the Opposition had taken the stand imputed to them by the Commissioner of Public Works. What they had attempted to condemn the Ministry for was that they had not reduced the salaries, even though they well knew the public sentiment of the country would be in favour of such a step.

Mr. HARDY thought there was very little of that spirit in the speeches of the hon. gentleman on former occasions, for in not a single one of them had he frankly expressed his willingness to accept his share of the responsibility of the increase. However, the hon. gentleman had heard some expressions of opinion among his constituents on his return to his own riding, and had therefore changed his position upon this question.

Mr. MEREDITH denied that he had changed from the position he had always occupied.

Mr. FERRIS wished to know if the hon. member had always considered himself entitled to the extra allowance, why it was he boasted that he had never sat with the extra amount in his pocket, but had deposited it every year in the hands of the Treasurer of London. In doing this he was attempting to secure to himself an advantage at the expense of every other member of the House.

Mr. MEREDITH said that this had been stated to the hon. member privately, and it would be a disgraceful thing—(order, order)—for any man outside of the House to speak thus publicly of what had been part of a purely private conversation. When he had placed the money in the hands of the Treasurer of London he had taken that gentleman's word that his name should never be mentioned in connection with it.

Mr. FERRIS stated that the conversation referred to had been held in the smoking-room of the House, and that two of his constituents and other gentlemen were present at the time, and he was sure he heard perfectly well what the leader of the Opposition said.

A long discussion took place upon this point between Messrs. Meredith and Fraser and other hon. members. The former claimed that as he had suggested the reduction of the indemnities to the then leader of the Opposition during the first session after the increase, he therefore occupied a position different from any other member of the House, and therefore he had not felt justified in keeping the money. In answer to a question as to why he had not refused