

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## THIRD PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

Monday, Feb. 24.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

Prayers were read by Rev. Dr. Topp.

### PETITIONS.

The following petition was presented:—

By Mr. Bell—From the Toronto Board of Trade, for certain amendments to the Assessment Act respecting the assessment of merchants' incomes.

### REPORTS BY COMMITTEES.

Mr. FRASER presented the 15th report of the Committee on Private Bills, which was adopted.

### MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. ROSS introduced a Bill to amend the Municipal Act, which was read a first time.

### RETURNS.

Mr. BELL called the attention of the Government to the fact that returns were not being brought down with despatch.

Mr. FRASER said they were being brought down as fast as prepared.

### THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:—

To amend the Act incorporating the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway Company—Mr. Williams.

Bill respecting the Grand Junction Railway Company—Mr. Boulter.

Bill respecting the Hamilton and North-Western Railway Company—Mr. Williams.

Bill respecting the Water-Works of the city of Ottawa—Mr. O'Donoghue.

The following Bills were then passed through Committee:—

Bill respecting the Whitby and Bobcaygeon Railway Extension Company—Mr. Paxton.

Bill respecting the Whitby, Port Perry, and Lindsay Railway Company—Mr. Paxton.

Bill respecting the Lake Simcoe Junction Railway Company—Mr. Lauder.

On the Bill respecting the Georgian Bay and Wellington Railway Company,

Mr. HUNTER said that the question had been raised as to the legalization of a by-law of the township of Sullivan granting a bonus to the Railway Company, and he wished the question set at rest by having it formally legalized.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that a rule *nisi* had been granted by the Courts to quash the by-law, and opposed its legalization by the House.

Mr. CREIGHTON advocated the legalization of the by-law, and said that he had examined the affidavits upon which the rule had been granted, and they were made up for the most part of very frivolous objections.

Mr. CROOKS said that he had been acting as Chairman of the Railway Committee, owing to the severe illness of the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the Committee had come to the conclusion that the grounds on which the rule *nisi* had been granted were not very strong. It was a customary practice to introduce into Bills a clause such as the one under consideration, that no by-law should be considered legal when litigation had been instituted to have it quashed until the judgment of the Court to that effect.

After some further discussion, it was decided to report progress and postpone further consideration of the Bill until tomorrow.

The following Bills were also passed through Committee:—

To amend the Act incorporating the St. Joseph Union Society of the city of Ottawa—Mr. O'Donoghue.

Bill respecting the property of the congregation of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Almonte—Mr. Fraser.

To give further powers to the Petrolia Crude Oil and Tanking Company—Mr. Pardee.

To incorporate the Brantford Street Rail-