

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
TORONTO, March 3.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 o'clock.

Prayers were read by Rev. D. J. Macdonnell.

PETITION.

Mr. Fraser presented the petition of the trustees of the Roman Catholic Separate Schools of Lindsay, that the election of trustees to those schools shall not be by ballot, and shall not be held upon the same day as municipal elections.

ALLOWANCE OF INDEMNITY.

Mr. WOOD, moved "That Duncan McRae, Esq., member in the Legislative Assembly for North Victoria, be allowed his full sessional allowance, his absence from the Chamber having been caused by illness." Carried.

CORRECTION.

Mr. DEACON corrected a report which had appeared in the *Mail* of his remarks upon the Bill to extend the jurisdiction of Division Courts. The ground of the objection he had urged to the extension was, that it was inconsistent for the advocates of the Bill to complain of anomalies in the present mode of conducting these Courts, and at the same time to ask for the extension of their jurisdiction.

OTTAWA WATER-WORKS.

Mr. FRASER moved the third reading of the Bill respecting the Water-works of the City of Ottawa. Carried.

The following private Bills were passed through Committee of the Whole:—

To incorporate the City of Guelph—Mr. Massie.

For the relief of the Barton & Glandford Road Company—Mr. Williams.

Respecting water-works for the town of Guelph—Mr. Massie.

To legalize certain by-laws of the Corporation of the county of Kent, and the debentures issued thereunder in aid of the Erie and Huron Railway Company—Mr. McCraney.

SECOND READINGS.]

The following Bills were read a second time:—

Concerning the London Junction Railway Company—Mr. Sinclair.

To amend an Act to authorize the Churchwardens of St. James' Church, Toronto, to issue debentures—Mr. Bell.

LICENSES IN MIDDLESEX.

Mr. TOOLEY moved for an order of the House for a return showing all moneys collected in the North Riding of Middlesex for tavern and shop licenses for and during the years 1876, 1877, and 1878, and from what township collected; the amounts paid the Commissioners for and during the same years; also, amounts paid Inspectors for such years; the amount of fines imposed and collected during such years, and to whom paid; also, the amounts returned the several townships during such years. Carried.

VOTERS' LISTS ACT.

Mr. HARKIN—Order of the House for a return showing the expense caused to or entailed upon any municipality in Ontario by the revision of any Voters' Lists of 1877 under the Voters' Lists Finality Act of 1878. This Act seemed to him to have been passed in the interests of a party, not of the Province, and he trusted that the return would be brought down as soon as possible. He wished to know also when the return upon licenses, which he had asked for some time ago, would be ready. He thought the Government were dilatory in bringing these returns before the House, and believed it would tell against them in the next election.

Mr. FRASER said the reason of the Voters' Lists Act was explained at the time it was passed, and the speech of the hon. gentleman needed no answer at this time. With regard to the return asked for on a previous occasion, he could only say that it would be brought down as early as possible. He believed that if a comparison were made it would be found that the returns this session had been brought down very quickly. All returns asked for were put in hand as quickly as the staff on hand would permit. That asked for by the hon. gentleman required information from outside, and until this information was received the return could not be brought down. Hon. gentlemen had been asking for a number of special returns, the information of which was contained in the general returns brought down, and hon. members must remember that in asking for these returns they were adding considerably to the expense of the session. He would notify the hon. gentleman that it would be utterly impossible to bring down the return now asked for in this session, owing to the fact that the information would have to come from outside.

Mr. MEREDITH said if any return had been asked for by gentlemen on his side of the House which was not in the interests of the Province, the Government, as controlling the House, were responsible for acceding to it. With regard to the Voters' List Act, it had been opposed by his side of the House on the ground that it was not necessary to the Province, and the result had proved them to be right. The Government should have known that there would be no general election making the Bill necessary. The revision had caused a great deal of expense to the municipalities and to individuals as well, and for all this he believed the Government were responsible.

The motion was carried.

LANCASTER DIVISION COURT.

Mr. GRANT moved for an order of the House for a return of all correspondence in reference to the holding of Division Courts in the township of Lancaster, county of Glengarry. The Division Court of the township of Lancaster was held in a place very inconvenient to the great majority of the inhabitants. They were under the impression that the House had power to remedy their grievance by removing the place of holding the Court to a more convenient place, and if such were the case he would like to see it done.