

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

TORONTO, March 10.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 o'clock.

JURORS' ACT.

The order for the third reading of this Bill was discharged and the Bill referred back to Committee of the Whole, to be amended by the addition of clauses that it should come into force on the 1st May, 1879, and to provide that it may be cited as the "Jurors' Act of 1879."

Mr. ROSS also moved an amendment to the Bill to raise the charges for fees of jurors from 1 50 to \$3 00 in the County Courts and from \$2 50 to \$5 00 in the Superior Courts, but after a short discussion the motion was ruled out of order, as there were no instructions to the Committee to make this amendment.

The Committee rose and reported.

Mr. ROSS moved that the Bill be referred back to Committee of the Whole with instructions to effect the amendment proposed.

Mr. CURRIE opposed the amendment on the ground that it was injudicious, and that there was now no time to discuss it.

The amendment was lost on division.

Mr. HARDY moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. SCOTT moved that the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to Committee of the Whole House, with instructions to amend the third section so as to give mayors of towns separated from the county a seat on the board of county selectors.

The amendment was lost on the following division:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Baker, Ballantyne, Bell, Coutts, Creighton, Deacon, Flesher, Harkin, Lauder, Long, McDougall, McGowan, Meredith, Monk, Morris, Preston, Rosevear, Scott—18.

NAYS.—Messrs. Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Finlayson, Fraser, Gibson, Graham, Harcourt, Hardy, Hunter, Kean, Lane, Lyon (Algoma), Lyon (Halton), McCraney, McLaws, McMahon, Massie, Master, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Patterson, Paxton, Rose, Sinclair, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdifield, Williams, Wood—38.

The Bill was read a third time.

DEATH OF MR. McLEOD.

Mr. MOWAT wished to allude to a sad event to which he had intended to refer before the order of the day had been called, viz., the death of Mr. John McLeod, member for West Durham. The hon. gentleman had died last night at six o'clock, and therefore since the last meeting of this House. It would be remembered that he had taken part in all the votes of Thursday. A cloud had come over his hon. friend during the latter years of his life, but he would be judged and remembered by what he had been before that period. They all knew he was a man upright in his dealings, a man of sound judgment, and of warm heart. He had many friends, but no enemies. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Mowat) believed that he would be kindly remembered both by those on the other side of the House and by members on that side. In consequence of the state of public business—the session being almost at a close—it would not be possible for them to adjourn, and to show in that way the respect with which they usually marked a sad occurrence of this kind. He had thought it fitting, however, to say these few words in reference to the demise of his hon. friend.

Mr. LAUDER said that the deceased was one of the very few members who had entered the House at Confederation. During the earlier part of his career as a legislator he had taken a very active part in all the proceedings of the House, and for a large portion of one Parliament had occupied the very responsible position of Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts. His failing health and increasing years had prevented him from taking the same part in the public business, but he still enjoyed the very highest respect of all his fellow-members, and they all knew that every one had the very kindest feelings toward him. Every one regretted very deeply his sudden departure. (Hear, hear.)

THE SCHOOL ACT.

This Bill was referred to Committee of the Whole for certain minor amendments, which having been made the Committee rose and reported.

Mr. BELL moved that the Bill be referred back to Committee, with instructions to amend it by providing that the voting at elections for both Public and Separate Schools should be by ballot.

Mr. FRASER said that outside of Toronto there was no agitation in this direction, at least as regarded Separate Schools. He had good reason to believe that the petitions from Toronto in favour of it were intended to ask for the change throughout the Province, and not in the city alone. He strongly opposed the amendment.

Mr. LONG thought the present system worked very well, and was opposed to making any change that was not asked for and was not required by the Separate School supporters.

Mr. CURRIE held that nothing should be forced upon the Separate School supporters that they did not want. If the amendment were confined to Public Schools he would support it, as he was in favour of an extension of the ballot system.

Mr. SINCLAIR thought the feeling among Roman Catholics in favour of the ballot was stronger than was generally believed. He therefore considered it his duty to vote for this amendment.

Mr. ROSS was prepared to vote in favour of the ballot in Public School elections, but he was not in favour of forcing upon the Roman Catholics anything which they were not prepared to ask for.

Mr. MILLER thought it not advisable, from the experience we had had in Parliamentary elections, to extend the ballot any further in either municipal or school elections.

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) also opposed the amendment.

The amendment was lost on the following