

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Fourth Parliament—First Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

Toronto, Jan. 19.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

## PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Chisholm—From the Credit Valley Railway, for an Act to amend Acts respecting that railway.

By Mr. Laidlaw—From the County Council of Wellington, for a change in the system of conveying convicts, &c.

By Mr. Mack—From the Corporation of the united counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, for an Act to provide for the keeping open of roads in winter.

By Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—From the North Simcoe Railway Company, for an Act to confirm a lease of their line to the Northern Railway of Canada, &c.

Also—From the Great Western Railway Company, that Acts applied for by the Lambton Central Railway may not pass.

Also—From the same, that Acts applied for by the Port Stanley, Strathroy, and Port Franks Railway Company may not pass.

Also—From the same, that an Act applied for by the Erie and Huron Railway Company may not pass.

By Mr. Striker—From the Village Council of Trenton and Township Councils of Murray and Ameliasburgh, that the charter of the Trent Valley Railway Company be revised.

By Mr. Meredith (for Mr. Scott)—For the legalization of certain by-laws with reference to the Toronto and Ottawa Railway Company.

By Mr. Meredith—From the Dominion Grange, for a reduction of the present Public School midsummer vacation.

By Mr. Deroche—From the Lambton Central Railway Company, for the revival of their charter.

By Mr. Ferris—From the Sheriffs of several counties, desiring to be heard before a Committee of the House with reference to certain alterations as to fees.

By Mr. Widdifield—From the County Council of York, for an appropriation to survey the proposed route of the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal.

By Mr. Badgerow—From the same, for an alteration in the Road Company's Act.

By Mr. Patterson—From the same, for a clearer definition of their powers as to the York roads, &c.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:—

To provide for the division of the township of Luther—Mr. McKim.

To amend the law for the protection of game and fur-bearing animals—Mr. Meredith (for Mr. Wigle).

To legalize certain by-laws of the town of Orillia—Mr. Cook.

## THE LICENSE LAW.

Mr. HARDY drew attention to a misapprehension of his remarks on the infringements of the License Law as reported in THE GLOBE. He desired to say that where detectives were paid for securing a conviction the instructions of the Department were not to let such conviction rest upon their evidence unless it was corroborated by others. In speaking on this point he had not made any reference to the inspectors, who were paid their salary irrespective of the result of the trial.

## ELECTION LAW.

Mr. AWREY asked if it is the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce an amendment to the Election Law, so as to change the mode of marking the ballot, or to assimilate the form of ballot used at the Ontario elections to those used for Dominion elections.

Mr. MOWAT said it was not the inten-

tion of the Government during the present session to introduce an amendment to the Election Law in the direction indicated. He did not think it was expedient to amend the Election Law from year to year. It might be proper in the last session to see whether some useful amendments might not be introduced, but until then he thought they had better postpone any legislation on this subject.

## GRAND JURIES.

Mr. METCALFE moved for an order for a return showing the cost of Grand Juries for the years 1876 and 1877 respectively in each of the counties in Ontario.

Mr. ROBINSON suggested that the mover should add to his motion, "Also the number of criminal charges preferred, and how such charges were disposed of." If, as had been stated, two-thirds of all the charges preferred were dealt with by the Crown Attorney, it would seem better that the work of Grand Juries should be placed in the hands of Crown Attorneys, or that we should adopt the system which had been successfully in existence for a long time in Scotland.

Mr. MOWAT suggested that the suggestion of last speaker should be embodied in a subsequent motion.

The motion was carried.

## NORTH-WEST BOUNDARY.

Mr. YOUNG moved for an Address to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will cause to be laid before this House any papers or correspondence which may have passed between the Government of the Province and that of the Dominion in regard to the confirmation of the award of the arbitrators in reference to the north-west boundaries of the Province. There had been, he said few questions which had awakened a more general interest in the Province than that of the final determination of the arbitration between the Dominion and the Province with respect to our north-western boundaries, and when the award was made there was a general feeling of satisfaction, he believed, among men of both parties with the way the case had been placed before the arbitrators by the Attorney-General. At the close of the last session of the Dominion Parliament there was a general feeling of regret that the result of the award had not formally been acknowledged by the Federal Government. Prior to the 5th of June last it was stated by one party that it was absolutely necessary to have the Dominion and Ontario Governments in accord, and there had been some who said that the Dominion legislation on this point was withheld until after the time of the election with a view to influencing the result so as to secure this accord. (Cheers.) He did not claim that this was the case, but whether the Dominion Government had any good reason for the delay—and he had seen no such reason advanced in any of the public prints—would be shown by the returns when they were brought down. In a question of such gravity—one in which the rights of the Province were at least temporarily withheld—they should forget party and work together for the benefit of the Province. (Cheers.) He trusted that the Attorney-General would fully understand that men of both parties would support him in any measure he might adopt which would secure the rights of the Province.

## COUNTY JUDGES' FEES.

Mr. HARCOURT moved for an Order of the House for a return showing the aggregate fees received by each Judge of the County Court in this Province in connection with his duties as Judge of the Surrogate Court for the years 1878 and 1879. He pointed out that in this country the principle was admitted that judges should not be paid by fees, yet there was present the anomaly of the County Judges receiving fees for services under the Surrogate Court. He did not speak of the judges' salaries, for whether they were or were not sufficient had nothing to do with this case. He believed that in some counties the judges received as much as \$1,000 a year under the Surrogate Court Act, and he held that it would be well, if necessary, even to add to the salaries in order to abolish these fees.

Mr. MOWAT, while not objecting to