

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE:

Fourth Parliament—First Session.

Tuesday, Jan. 27.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock p.m.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Lauder—Of the township Council of Orillia, praying that the Bill now before the House respecting the Midland Railroad may not pass.

Mr. Cook—Of Henry Caldwell and others, of Holland, praying that the township may not be grouped with others in the granting of aid to the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railroad.

Mr. Neelon—Of the township Council of Watt, respecting the proposed route of the Ontario and Pacific Junction Railway.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time:—

To incorporate the Sarnia and Petrolia Railway Company.—Mr. McOraney.

An Act respecting County and Public School Inspectors.—Mr. Ballantyne.

APPOINTMENT TO A COMMITTEE.

Mr. WOOD moved, seconded by Mr. PARDEE, that the name of Mr. Watterworth be added to the Committee on Municipal Amendments. Carried.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Mr. WOOD moved the second reading of the Bill to incorporate the Ontario School of Agriculture. He said that the institution was no longer to be considered as an experiment. It was an institution in which great interest was taken by that class for whom it was intended—the farmers. This was shown by the fact that they had to refuse over 100 applicants during the last year. It was due to the officers of the College that they should know that their positions would be permanent during good behaviour and efficiency. During the last year several thousand persons have visited the College from different parts of the country, many of whom were leading agriculturists in their several districts. In addition to that the Grangers, a large body, non-political, visited the College, and they, through their Dominion Grange, have strongly urged upon the Government the necessity of its incorporation. We are not at all ahead of our friends across the great lakes so far as agricultural colleges are concerned. Under their Act of 1865 they have 29 colleges, endowed with grants of land amounting in all to 1,463,505 acres. The most efficient of these was the Michigan College, but so far as farm work was concerned the Ontario College would compare favourably with that at Lansing. The Bill provides for the subjects which are to be studied by the boys, also by-laws for regulating the duties of teachers. Provision was made for affiliation with the University of Toronto. Some objection had been taken to that clause, but when it is considered that this institution has received so much support from the farmers of the Province, they were surely entitled to any honours which the University could bestow in connection with agriculture. By the provisions of the Bill the president and the agricultural professor would be members of the Agricultural and Arts Association, so that they would have the benefit of the views of the leading agriculturists of the Province. Reference was made to the retiring president, to whose labours much of the present efficiency of the College was due, and it was confidently hoped that the institution would retain its present high standard under the able management of his successor.

Mr. LAUDER said he was sorry to hear of the retirement of the principal. The College had been unfortunate and under a cloud. He was glad to hear the Treasurer speak in a different manner from what he had done some few years ago. He hoped the new principal would be a success. But the position was a very hard