

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE:

Fourth Parliament—First Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

Toronto, Jan. 30.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By the Attorney-General—From J. S. Getzner and others, Oxford, that the Bill respecting the St. Mary's, Credit Valley, and Huron Railway may pass.

Also—From W. C. Menzies and others, of Peterboro', that the Bill respecting the Toronto and Ottawa Railway may not pass.

Also—Of W. Carson and others, of Woodstock, that the sale of intoxicating liquors may be prohibited on certain holidays.

By Mr. Pardee—From W. C. Henderson and others, to the same effect.

By Mr. Murray—From the County Clerk of Renfrew, that the Bill respecting the separation of the county may not pass.

By Mr. Rosevear—From the Town Clerk of Port Hope, that the Midland Railway Bill may not pass.

SESSIONAL PAPERS.

Mr. LAUDER moved that certain sessional papers brought down last session be referred to the Printing Committee. Carried.

LICENSE FUNDS.

Mr. CREIGHTON moved for an order for a return of all Departmental orders or instructions to License Commissioners or Inspectors, with a view to furnishing to the municipalities details of expenditure of License Fund. He wished to learn what the instructions were which the Government had issued with regard to the returns of expenditures of License Commissioners.

The motion was carried.

FEES IN THE COURTS.

Mr. BELL moved for an order for a return of any rules or orders made by the Superior Courts, and now in force, declaring the fees to be allowed to any counsel, attorney, or any officer or person for any business done in any of the Courts.

Mr. MOWAT said these rules and orders were already accessible, and were not a proper subject of a return.

Mr. BELL said legal gentlemen might find them, but laymen could not. He wanted them in a convenient form for use in considering the provisions of the Judicature Act.

The motion was lost.

GUARDIANS AD LITEM.

Mr. DEROCHE moved for an order for a return of all fees received by John Hoskin, guardian *ad litem* of infants, in the Court of Chancery, during the year 1879, distinguishing disbursements from fees; the number and names of the clerks employed by him to assist him in such guardianship; the salary paid to each of said clerks in connection therewith; and if any such clerks have been otherwise employed, the nature and extent of such employment; and also the particulars of any other expenditure incurred by him as such guardian. Carried.

COUNCILLORS IN TOWNS.

Mr. SPRINGER moved the second reading of his Bill to amend the Municipal Act. He explained that its purpose was to permit towns of not more than four wards to have less than three councillors for each ward.

The Bill was read the second time.

SNOW FENCES, &c.

Mr. HAY moved the second reading of his Bill to amend the Municipal Act. He explained that it was to compel Councils, on the petition of 20 ratepayers, to pass by-laws regulating the construction and maintenance of snow fences. The Bill also provided that the approaches for sixty feet of each end of the bridges assumed by County Councils should be constructed and maintained at the expense

of such Councils.

The Bill was read the second time.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The following Bills were read the second time:—

To incorporate the Erie Fire Insurance Company.—Mr. Nairn.

To incorporate the Port Rowan and Lake Shore Railway Company.—Mr. Morgan.

To authorize the trustees of the Presbyterian congregation of Lobo, known as Melville Church, to sell certain lands.—Mr. Waters.

To amend the Act incorporating Alma College.—Mr. Nairn.

To extend the powers of the City Gas Company.—Mr. Meredith.

To confirm a certain by-law of the town of Owen Sound.—Mr. Creighton.

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

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

Relating to the incorporation of the village of Chesley.—Mr. Sinclair.

To confirm a by-law of the county of Prince Edward granting aid to the Prince Edward County Railway Company.—Mr. Striker.

Respecting the Prince Edward County Railway Company.—Mr. Striker.

To revive and amend the Act incorporating the Lambton Central Railway.—Mr. Deroche.

Respecting the Georgian Bay and Wellington Railway Company.—Mr. Hunter.

To incorporate the village of Warton.—Mr. Sinclair.

LAND SURVEYORS.

Mr. PARDEE moved the second reading of the Bill respecting Land Surveyors and the Survey of Lands. In the Act as it now stood, he said, the director of the geological survey of old Province of Canada was a member of the Board of Examiners. He proposed to substitute the Professor of Mineralogy and Geology at University College. The Bill also removed the present absurd regulation requiring students to pass their preliminary examination prior to entering a college; provided that students who went through a course of study at the School of Practical Science and obtained their certificates should have their time of service with a surveyor shortened; enabled Dominion land surveyors to become Provincial land surveyors on passing an examination as to their familiarity with the system and service adopted, and placed graduates of McGill University, Montreal, on precisely the same footing as those of our Provincial University.

The Bill was read the second time.

FREE GRANT ACT.

Mr. PARDEE, in moving the second reading of the Bill to amend the Free Grants and Homesteads Act, said that within the last twelve years, from 1868 to 1879 inclusive, revenue to the extent of six millions of dollars had been received from Crown lands. It was therefore highly necessary that they should be carefully preserved. At first little difficulty was felt, because pine lands were not required for settlement. But within the last few years that had been entirely changed, and now we had scarcely any but pine lands available for settlement. All the rest of the country was settled up with the exception of occasional lots. It became, therefore, necessary to provide some means by which settlement should be promoted, and the revenue of the Province at the same time maintained. It was the opinion of some people that the Crown lands should be entirely devoted to the purposes of revenue; but that course he did not think would consort with the spirit of the age, or be satisfactory to the people of the Province, who desired to see our vacant lands settled up. He thought it was possible to devise a scheme whereby both objects could be served—the settlement of the country and the maintenance of the revenue. The Bill now before the House he believed to embody such a scheme. The law at present allowed five years for the removal of the