

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Fourth Parliament—First Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

February 23.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Harcourt—From the town of Wellingham, respecting the Bill on market fees.

Mr. Merrick — From the village of Kemptville, praying that the sale of intoxicating liquor be prohibited on certain holidays.

RETURNS.

Mr. HARDY presented the report of the Engineer of the Public Works Department and other papers relating to the erection of Parliament Buildings.

Also—Report of the Board of Management of the Western Ontario School of Arts.

Also—Return of the names of persons, firms, and companies indebted to the Crown on the 1st of January, 1879, on account of timber dues.

MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING.

Mr. LYON moved that the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be referred back to the Committee, with instructions to declare the preamble of Bill (No. 53), Municipality of Neebing as proven. He remarked that in making this motion he wished to state to the House that this was a Bill to separate certain townships from the municipality of Shuniah and form those townships into a municipality to be called the municipality of Neebing. The population of Prince Arthur's Landing was embraced in Prince Arthur's Landing and the township of McIntyre, and the population of Fort William was embraced in the townships of Neebing and McKellar. The distance between those places was five miles, and this Bill provided that the division should take place about half way between those places. There were five townships to the west of Fort William, but there were no settlers in them. There could be no complaint as to territorial extent, as the municipality of Shuniah could attach new townships to the east of that place which contained equally as good land as the township to the west of Fort William; and with the municipality of Oliver to the north of those places it would be seen that no other division could be made. The population of Prince Arthur's Landing is much larger than Fort William, which enabled them to elect a majority of the Council, and gave them control of the funds of the municipality, and this control had been used for the benefit of the former place. A by-law was passed granting a bonus of \$35,000 to construct a railway from Fort William to Prince Arthur's Landing, thereby deteriorating the value of property in Fort William and increasing the value of property in Prince Arthur's Landing. The people of Fort William were not satisfied with the way the funds of the municipality were expended. They contended that they did not get a fair proportion of the money raised and expended in their section of the municipality, and when separation took place they could manage their own affairs more economically than they are able to do at present. The proper notices had been given in the local paper and in the *Ontario Gazette*, and no petitions had been presented against the Bill; and he was in possession of letters from Prince Arthur's Landing, and not one word was said against separation; and, besides, he had seen parties from Prince Arthur's Landing here since the Bill was before the Committee, and they were in favour of the Bill. The provisions of the Bill were fair and just. It provided that up to the time of separation each municipality should pay their share of the debts contracted. All that was wanted by the new municipality was that they should have control of their own local affairs. He was cognizant of the facts with regard to this separation, and as there were two rival towns it would be better for both that

a separation should take place. He could not see any good reason why this Bill should not be referred back to the Committee on Private Bills, and hoped that hon. members on both sides of the House would assent to the motion.

Mr. FRASER said it would be highly undesirable at this stage of the session to deal with this Bill in the manner proposed, seeing that there could be no opportunity of obtaining the views of those most interested.

Mr. CROOKS corroborated the statements of the mover with regard to the inharmonious relations subsisting between the two portions of the municipality which it was proposed to separate.

Mr. AWREY said that an additional reason for bringing about the separation of Prince Arthur's Landing from the Town Plot was that a new and expensive Town Hall was being erected at the Landing, which the people of Fort William would have to help pay for though it would be of no benefit to them. He read a telegram stating that the municipality of Shuniah was not opposed to the separation.

Mr. PARDEE said that as no possible disadvantage could happen to those interested by allowing the matter to stand over for another session, he thought that would be the most prudent course, so that the views of those affected might be fully expressed.

The House divided on the motion, which was lost:—Yeas, 27; Nays, 36.

YEAS.—Messrs. Awrey, Baker, Baxter, Bell, Calvin, Cascaden, Creighton, Deroche, Dryden, Freeman, Gibson (Huron), Graham, Hawley, Hunter, Kerr, Lauder, Lyon, McLaughlin, Macmaster, Murray, Paxton, Robertson (Halton), Springer, Striker, Waters, Widdifield, Wible—27.

NAYS.—Messrs. Badgerow, Ballantyne, Baskerville, Bonfield, Boulter, Broder, Chisholm, Crooks, Ferris, Field, Fraser, French, Gibson (Hamilton), Harcourt, Hardy, Lees, McCraney, Mack, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Morgan, Morris, Mowat, Near, Neelon, Pardee, Patterson, Richardson, Robinson (Kent), Robertson (Hastings), Rosevear, Ross, Sinclair, Wood, Young—36.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

Mr. FRASER moved that the House would on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain proposed resolutions respecting new buildings for the Provincial Legislature and Public Departments. Carried.

CORRECTION.

Mr. LEES desired to correct the report of the *Mail* of the 21st inst., in which it was stated that, in the discussion on the Game Bill, he was the mover of the amendment restricting the use of dogs to one month. The amendment in question was moved by the hon. member for North Lanark, and he (Mr. Lees) was quite opposed to it.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were passed through a second reading:—

Respecting the removal of persons from County Gaols to Provincial Institutions.—Mr. Wood.

Respecting the collection of taxes in the Districts of Algoma, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing, and Thunder Bay.—The Attorney-General.

Respecting the proof of proceedings in Provincial and Colonial Courts.—The Attorney-General.

INTERNATIONAL PARK.

The Attorney-General's Bill respecting Niagara Falls and the adjacent territory was passed through Committee.

DIVISION COURTS.

The House went into Committee and resumed the consideration of Mr. Hardy's Bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Division Courts and to regulate the officers of said Courts.

Several clauses were discussed, and a few minor amendments were made.

It being six o'clock the Committee rose and the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

The House again went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill.

After some unimportant amendments, Mr. WHITE moved that the clause providing for the imprisonment of judgment debtors be struck out.

Mr. FRASER pointed out that under the Act as it stood every possible protection