

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Fourth Parliament—First Session.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

March 2.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Laidlaw—From A. Dixon and others of Guelph, praying that the sale of intoxicating liquors be prohibited on holidays.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. YOUNG presented the report of the Select Committee on Railway Accidents.

The report was received and adopted.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:—

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

Respecting tile, stone, and timber drainage—Mr. Hay.

For the relief of permanent building societies—The Attorney-General.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE AND ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Mr. CROOKS moved the adoption of the following resolution:—"That this House doth ratify an Order in Council, dated the first day of March instant, directing certain payments from the Permanent Fund of the Upper Canada College and Royal Grammar School." Owing to an amendment to the Act respecting Upper Canada College and Royal Grammar School passed last session, it was necessary that any Order in Council should be submitted to the House for ratification before it became law. It would be seen that the proposed expenditure of \$30,000 emanated from the Committee of the Senate of the University, under whose charge all the affairs of the College were placed by statute. The College derived an annual income of \$15,000 from the original grant of 60,000 acres, which had been converted into money. In addition to that it received annually \$10,000 from tuition fees. The boarding house now contained accommodation for 89 pupils, and it was proposed to extend the accommodation to 130. The fees received from day pupils was very large, amounting to nearly two-thirds of the cost of the whole teaching staff. It was designed to place the College in a position especially suitable to prepare pupils thoroughly in classical and general subjects, so as to enable boys to go into the University thoroughly equipped for the most difficult subjects which a university might lay down, especially with reference to the higher subjects which were required before entrance into any of our universities could be obtained. While the higher schools were felt to be a necessity, there was nevertheless an absolute want for the maintenance of such an institution as the Upper Canada College. Whatever the facilities were throughout the Province for preparing for entrance to the University—and it was well known that many of the High School students in the country had been successful in carrying off honours in the shape of scholarships—yet the interests of higher education certainly demanded that U. C. College should be one of the assistant institutions to prepare thoroughly any youth who wished to enter upon a University course. U. C. College had had a long period of success in connection with the history of the Province. It was quite exceptional for any one to be able to point back to an institution which for half a century has played such an important part in the education of the country. He could point to many of its old students now occupying positions of honour and trust in the country, and their efficiency had mainly arisen from their Upper Canada College training. Several gentlemen now on the Bench of the Courts of Appeal, Chancery, and Common Law received their chief training in that institution, and the country had just reason to be proud of them. The zeal and carefulness with which the Committee had considered the question was *prima facie* evidence of the soundness of the views they had entertained on the subject, and he would urge the claims of the institution as one which we could not afford to allow to disappear or deteriorate.

Mr. DEROCHE said that the time was coming when the usefulness of Upper Canada College would be gone. There are several collegiate institutes which were more successful in sending up matriculants to the universities than Upper Canada College. These institutions were open for the poor as well as the rich. The matter had been brought up rather suddenly. He admitted the prestige of the Upper Canada College and the number of high names connected with it. But the times had changed, and so had the educational facilities and appliances. Could not the money proposed to be used be better expended for the support of the High and Model Schools of the Province? He would suggest to the Minister of Education the propriety of withdrawing this resolution at present.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN agreed with the member for Addington. Our High Schools in late years had made vast strides, and certainly more than filled the place which the Upper Canada College had once occupied. In these schools a young man could receive a training inferior to none. Upper Canada College was not in reality a Provincial School, but would be found to educate chiefly the youth of Toronto. Giving Upper Canada College this sum of money would make it a permanency, and that was not desirable. The University of Toronto was the institution which merited an expenditure such as the Minister contemplated.

Mr. SINCLAIR echoed the sentiments of the last speaker in a certain degree. But still he did not believe that the time had yet come for doing away with Upper Canada College. As a member from the country, he thought it would be well still to give the College that support which would keep it running for some years more.

Mr. BAXTER reminded them that an investiga-