

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 19.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Bell—From the T. G. & B. Railway, for amendments to their charter.

Mr. Paxton—From Corporation of Village of Port Perry, for an amendment to the Act incorporating the Lake Scugog Marsh Lands Drainage Company.

Mr. Murray—From Corporation of the township of Pembroke, for an amendment to the License Act.

Mr. Cook—From municipality of Orillia and Matchodush, for the Government to lower the water of Lake Simcoe and Couchiching.

Mr. Lauder—From township of Holland, for incorporation of the Orange Association of Ontario East and West.

Mr. Gibson—From the Anglo-Canadian Mortgage Company, for an Act to give the Company certain powers.

Mr. Boulter—From Township Council of Madoc, for the repeal of the law establishing License Commissioners and Inspectors, and restoring that power to the local municipal councils.

Mr. Creighton—From James Cochrane, of Derby, and others, that the legislation may not interfere with the terms of a certain by-law of said township granting aid to the Georgian Bay and Wellington Railway Company.

Mr. Awrey—From the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway Company, that an Act may be passed giving the Company certain powers.

Mr. Morgan—From Municipal Council of township of Woodhouse, that aid may be granted to the Stratford and Huron Railway Company.

Mr. Meredith—From Municipal Corporation of London, for the passing of an Act entitled the "London Junction Railway Company."

Mr. Metcalfe—From Corporation of city of Kingston, to confirm certain assessments in said city.

Mr. Blezard—From the Grange Trust Company, for an Act to amend their charter, giving them leave to increase their capital stock.

Mr. Norris—From Benjamin Homer Dixon and wife, an Act respecting marriage settlement.

Mr. Bell—From Corporation of City of Toronto, for certain amendments to Municipal and Assessment Acts as regards exemptions.

Mr. McCraney—From County Council of Kent, for amendments to the Municipal Drainage Act.

Mr. Chisholm—From Credit Valley Railway Company, to consolidate and amend their Acts.

Mr. Watterworth—From the Corporation of Township of Caradoc, for certain amendments to the Act respecting Ditching Watercourses.

Mr. Widdifield, from C. H. Curtis and others; Mr. Norris, from D. Duncan and others; Mr. Metcalfe, from J. C. Burrows and others, praying for an amendment to the License Act so that bars may be kept open till eleven o'clock p.m.

Mr. Hay—From Municipal Council of Township of Wallace; also petition from Township of Ellice; also petition from Township of Listowel—for a grant to the Stratford and Huron Railway Company.

Mr. Lauder—Of the Corporation of the Township of Collingwood. Mr. McKim, of the Township of Pilkington; also of the Council of the Township of Nichol. Mr. McMahon, of the Council of the Township of Beverley. Mr. Nairn, of the Council of the Township of Malahide. Mr. Mack, of the Council of the Township of Cornwall. Mr. Boulter, of the Township Council of Madoc—praying for the abolition of market fees.

IRREGULAR.

The SPEAKER called the attention of the House to the fact that any petitions asking for the expenditure of moneys were irregular.

THE JUDICATURE BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL introduced a Bill to consolidate the Superior Courts, establish uniformity in pleading and practice, and make further provision for the due administration of justice—which was read a first time, the second reading to take place on Friday next.

JURORS ACT.

Mr. WATERS introduced a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Jurors Act," which was read a first time.

RETURN.

Mr. HALL presented a return of the fees paid county selectors of jurors for the year 1879.

SCHOOL LANDS AWARD.

Mr. CREIGHTON enquired when it is expected the sum of \$124,685 18, awarded to certain municipalities in respect of school lands by the arbitration between Ontario and Quebec, will be paid to the municipalities entitled thereto. Also, whether it is intended to pay interest to the municipalities on the respective amounts coming to them from the 1st July, 1867, till paid.

Mr. WOOD, in reply, stated that since last session he had communicated with the Treasurer of the Province of Quebec and notified him that some time about the month of June or July he would be prepared to go into the matter. He had paid a visit to the Province of Quebec, and also saw the Assistant-Treasurer at Ottawa, and arranged to have a settlement effected as speedily as possible. Fresh detailed accounts had to be made out, which caused considerable delay. Notwithstanding that he had anticipated arriving at a settlement before the House met, but the early meeting of the Dominion Parliament prevented that, and he could only say now that a conclusion would be arrived at as soon as possible.

THE BOUNDARY AWARD.

Mr. MORRIS moved the following:—
"That an address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all correspondence between the Executive Council of the Province of Ontario, or any member thereof, and the Privy Council of Canada, or any member thereof, respecting the award relating to the boundaries of the Province of Ontario, which may have taken place since the opening of the last session of the Legislature of Ontario."

Mr. MOWAT suggested the addition of the words "respecting the territory in dispute," which was agreed to, and the motion as amended carried.

SCHOOL TEXT-BOOKS.

Mr. LAUDER moved for a list of all the school-books authorized and in use in the Public Schools of Ontario on the 1st day of July, 1867, with the retail price in each case. A list of all school-books that have been authorized at different times for use in Public, Grammar, and High Schools of Ontario since the above date, specifying the name of the author in each case, together with the retail price of the same. Said last-mentioned list to indicate those text-books now authorized and in use. He stated that he made the motion for the purpose of obtaining information. He thought that the frequent change of text-books could be easily controlled by the Department. There had also been some talk about public servants becoming authors. The return, he thought, would therefore be interesting.

Mr. CROOKS congratulated his hon. friend in seeking to obtain for the first time specific information on the subject of education, instead of making general statements, as was his custom. He (Mr. Crooks) had come to a conclusion regarding text-books, and he would shortly put the House in possession of the proposed revised list of text-books. The subjects taught in the Public Schools were limited at present to the ordinary branches of an English education, and they were not so numerous as formerly. He would suggest the addition of the following words to the motion:—
"Also those now proposed to be authorized; also a copy of all regulations respecting Public School text-books; also a schedule showing the retail price of such books." At the time of a public agitation in the press he had promised to attend to the vexed question of the retail price of Public School text-books, and he had already taken action in the matter.

Mr. LAUDER objected to the amendment, as he did not wish his motion to ask for papers which did not exist.

Mr. CROOKS said that the hon. member had merely anticipated a return which he himself had intended to bring down, and as a matter of convenience he would like the motion to include all the information obtainable.

Mr. MERRICK enquired if the motion asking for papers which were not in existence was in order.

Mr. CROOKS—The papers do exist, but they have yet to be confirmed by the Council.

The SPEAKER ruled that as the addition to the motion was in the form of an amendment, and as the papers were stated to be in existence, the amendment was in order.

Mr. LAUDER said he had been accused of making general statements, but he was representing the views of his constituents when he said that the question of Public School text-books was a burning one. He could not be supposed to know that the Minister had a cure