

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, Jan. 21, 1881.

At 3 o'clock the Speaker took the chair,

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented :—

Petitions against lessening the restrictions on the sale of intoxicating liquors were presented by Messrs. Chisholm, C. W. Robinson, and Young.

Mr. Meredith—For an Act respecting certain lands purchased by the Corporation of the City of London.

Mr. Dryden—For an Act to incorporate the trustees of the Toronto Baptist College.

Petitions to amend the License Act so that bars of hotels may be kept open until the hour of 11 p.m. on Saturdays, were presented by Messrs. Parkhill, Livingston, and S. White.

Mr. Livingston—From the town of Galt—For the repeal of the law establishing license commissioners and inspectors, and restoring that power to the local municipal councils. Similar petitions were presented by Messrs. Lyon and Harcourt.

Mr. Paxton—To have the outlet of Lake Couchiching enlarged so as to lower the waters of Lake Simcoe two feet, and thereby prevent the flooding of valuable lands in the spring time.

Mr. Paxton—For amending the act incorporating the Lake Scugog Marsh Lands Drainage Company.

Mr. Hunter—For a special Act relating to the Georgian Bay and Wellington Railway.

Mr. S. White—For an Act to consolidate the debt of the town of Windsor, and to issue debentures therefor.

Mr. Deroche—For changing the name of the village of Millpoint to "Deseronto."

Mr. Meredith—For an Act to extend the time for the commencement and completion of the London Junction Railway. Also, for an Act to authorize the sale of the rectory house and lands of St. John's Church, in the township of London.

Mr. Peck—For amendment of Acts relating to the Midland Railway Co.

Mr. Robinson (Kent)—For an Act to incorporate the Chatham and Charing-Cross Railway Co.

Mr. Richardson—For amendments to the Ditches and Watercourses Act. Similar petitions were present by Messrs. Long and Wood.

Petitions for free markets were presented by Messrs. Wood, Robertson (Hastings), Livingston, and Long.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. WATERS' Bill to amend the Act respecting ditching and watercourses was read the first time.

Mr. HARDY—Bill relating to interpleader.

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. GRAHAM asked whether it was the intention of the Government to continue the services of the License Commissioner and Inspector for the current year in the County of Lambton, owing to the Scott Act taking effect in that county on the first day of May next, and if so, from what source will their expenses be paid?

Mr. HARDY said that the Government had the matter under consideration, and would probably introduce certain legislation respecting it. Until they did so they could not announce their policy on the subject.

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Mr. HAY moved an address to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a return of any correspondence or papers which may have passed between the Government of Ontario and the Government of the Dominion in respect to the Land Improvement Fund. He explained the origin of the fund, saying that it arose from the sale of certain School Lands and Crown Lands, the proceeds to be applied to the promotion of local improvements in the municipalities in which the lands were located. The Treasurer had been applied to by members representing the localities where these lands were situated. The people were anxious to know why they did not have it at once, and were blaming the Government for the delay. They had censured the Government for not taking energetic steps in the matter. He presumed there was correspondence on the subject, and that it would show the House just where the responsibility lay. He hoped a speedy settlement would be arrived at.

Mr. CREIGHTON said he believed the facts were very strong in favour of the municipalities. The Dominion had recognized its liability to pay interest on the amount coming to the municipalities, and it had paid interest to