

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION.

MONDAY, Jan. 31.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Robinson—Of the Township Council of Raleigh, for certain amendments to the Ditches and Watercourses Act.

Mr. Nairn—Of the County Council of Elgin, respecting the London Junction Railway Bill. Also—Petition of the County Council of Elgin, respecting the Port Royal and Lake Shore Railway Bill.

Mr. Robinson (Kent), of the municipality of the township of Raleigh; Mr. Waters, of the Grey Division Grange; Mr. Baxter, of the County Council of Haldimand; Mr. Deroche, of the County Council of Frontenac, for the abolition of market fees.

Mr. Lyn—Of the Township Council of Shumah, praying for the passing of the Bill for the township separation.

Mr. Waters—Of the Township Council of West Williams for certain amendments to the Assessment Act.

Mr. Deroche—Of the Toronto Gravel Road and Concrete Company, praying that the Bill respecting their Company may not pass.

Mr. Parkhill—Of residents of Humphrey, praying that the Bill to dismember the county of Simcoe may not pass.

Mr. Badgerow—Of residents of Shumah, praying that the Bill respecting the municipality of Neebing may not pass. Also, of Thomas Marks and others to the same effect.

Mr. Morgan, of James Chambers; Mr. McLaughlin, of the Newton Division Grange; Mr. Tooley, of citizens of Thorndale; Mr. Baskerville, of James Smith and others of Ottawa; Mr. Metcalfe, of J. Elliot and others of Kingston, respecting the closing of hotel bars.

Mr. Tooley—Of Township Council of West Nisour; Mr. Lauder, of Grey Division Grange; Mr. Badgerow, of residents of Markham; Mr. Hawley, of residents of Lennox.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. YOUNG presented the fourth, fifth, and sixth reports of the Committee on Standing Orders, which were adopted.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:—

Mr. Paterson—A Bill respecting water and gas works of Parkdale.

Mr. Wells—A Bill to amend the Acts relating to the Credit Valley Railway Company.

Mr. Miller—A Bill relating to the judicial divisions of Muskoka and Parry Sound.

Mr. Bell—A Bill to authorize the Law Society of Ontario to admit Eccles as a Barrister-at-law.

Mr. Paxton—A Bill to amend the Acts incorporating the Whitby, Port Perry, and Lindsay Railway Co.

Mr. Nairn—A Bill to amend the Act respecting Voters' Lists.

Mr. Wood—A Bill to limit the borrowing powers of the Grange Trust; to increase its capital, and to amend its charter.

Mr. Dryden—A Bill to incorporate the Toronto Baptist College.

Mr. McKim—A Bill respecting the Canada Mortgage Agency.

Mr. Bell—A Bill for an Act to extend the time for completion of the Erie and Huron Railway.

Mr. Wells—A Bill to incorporate the Canada West Railway Company.

Mr. Metcalfe—A Bill for an Act to confirm certain assessments of the city of Kingston.

Mr. Baxter—A Bill to amend the Act relating to the Hamilton and North-Western Railway Company.

Mr. Long—A Bill respecting the debt of the County of Simcoe.

Mr. Paxton—A Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Scugog Marsh Lands Drainage Company.

Mr. Wood—A Bill to change the name of Sarnia Gas Company, to confirm its by-laws, and to extend its powers.

Mr. Badgerow—A Bill to incorporate the Junction and Dufferin Railway Company.

Mr. Wood—A Bill for an Act to repeal that part of an Act relating to the by-law of the County of Peterboro' granting aid to the Peterboro' and Grand Junction Railway.

Mr. Mowat—A Bill for an Act to vest certain lands in the town of Woodstock, and to authorise the sale thereof.

Mr. Lauder—A Bill for an Act to consolidate the debt of the town of Windsor.

Mr. Parkhill—A Bill to enable the trustees of Bethel Congregational Church, Orangeville, to sell certain lands.

COSTS OF CONVEYING PRISONERS.

Mr. ROSS moved for an order of the House for a return of the costs of conveying lunatics to the Provincial asylums, or boys to the Reformatory, from the county gaols; and also the costs of conveying the same classes by the sheriffs during the years 1878 and 1879, giving the number so conveyed from each county or city, and the cost paid in connection with the conveyance of each lunatic or prisoner, the cost under Provincial bailiff to include the sixty per cent. payable towards salary of bailiff. His object in moving for the return was to show how the present system of conveying prisoners worked as compared with the old one.

Mr. WOOD said he was glad that the return had been moved for. The returns moved for last year showed that the cost for 1879 was \$25; in 1878, \$26. For boys to the Reformatory, in 1879, \$46; and in 1878, \$51. The average cost of the conveyance in 1880, including boys to the Reformatory, was but \$13.88.

Mr. LAUDER referred to the delay in conveying prisoners, which he believed was in some cases very great.

Mr. WOOD added that the delay under the new system was no greater than under the old.

The motion was carried.

DIVISION COURTS.

Mr. FERRIS moved for an order of the House

for a return of the number of suits over \$100 brought in each Division Court, in the Province, in the year 1879, verdict in each case, the cases in which the attorneys' fees were allowed by the judge to plaintiff, and amount thereof; the cases in which agents' fees were allowed by the judge to plaintiff, and amount thereof; the cases in which attorneys' fees were allowed to defendant, and amount thereof; the cases in which agents' fees were allowed to defendant, and amount thereof. Many had said that in increasing the jurisdiction of these Courts it was no longer the poor man's Court, but he thought the return would show that this contention was wrong. He thought that the Attorney-General might do well to take into consideration the further extension of the jurisdiction of Division Courts.

The motion was carried.

THE JUDICATURE BILL.

The House went into Committee of the Whole to further consider the Judicature Bill.

Sub-section 2 of clause 55 was so amended as to apply to Taxing Officers. A brief discussion took place on this clause, some members expressing the opinion that all officers of the High Court should be appointed by the Government and not by the judges, as stipulated in the Bill. The clause was carried.

On clause 61 a discussion took place as to whether County Court judges should be allowed fees for extra work in addition to the salary they received from the Dominion Government. Some members contended that it was far more desirable that their salaries should rather be increased than that they should be allowed fees. It was claimed that efficient men could be found willing to accept the position of County Court Judge at the fixed salary.

Mr. MOWAT said that it was of the utmost importance that they should secure the services of the most efficient men, and they could not be got in this Province for the small salary allowed County Judges. He saw no reason why they should not be paid extra for work outside of their office.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) pointed out that under the Bill County Court Judges would have to perform the work of Masters-in-Chancery as well as the work pertaining to their own office. Masters-in-Chancery were now paid by fees, and if the Judges did the work, it was only fair that they should get the fees.

The first sub-section of this clause was amended by the addition of the words "And every local Master hereafter appointed shall reside in the county in which he is appointed." The whole clause was then allowed to stand for consideration.

Consideration of sub-section 2 of clause 62 was deferred, also of clauses 63, 67, and 85.

The remaining clauses of the Bill were passed without amendment, and the House proceeded to adopt the rules of Court contained in the schedule.

At six o'clock the Committee rose and reported progress.

The House then adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Lauder—On Wednesday next—Enquiries of the Minister of Education what number of applicants have been recommended to the Minister of Education or his Department by school inspectors or others for permits or provisional licenses to teach during the last two years; what number of such applicants were granted such permits or provisional licenses.

Mr. Young—On Wednesday next—That the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the following resolution:— "That it is desirable to amend the Municipal Act, so that the assessors of every municipality shall, whilst making the annual assessment, collect the agricultural statistics of the Province, including the acreage under crop, the yield of cereals, roots, crops, etc., the number of animals owned, and such other statistics as may be desirable."

Mr. Miller—On Thursday next—Order from the House for a return showing (1) the total amount of scrip issued by this Province under authority of the Railway Aid Act, the Railway Subsidy Fund, or any other Act or order granting aid to railways out of the funds of this Province; (2) the amount redeemed and the amount outstanding on the 1st day of January, 1881; (3) The names of the railways of which scrip has been issued, and the amount granted to each road, especially showing the amounts redeemed and the amounts outstanding; (4) the present value of scrip due each road at the date above-named, calculating the payments as capitalized at five per cent.