

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 9.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented.

Mr. Near—Of the county of Welland Agricultural Society, praying for certain amendments to the Municipal Act respecting the market tax on farm produce.

Mr. Wigle—Of the Municipal Corporation of the township of Mersea, to the same effect.

Mr. Wigle—Of the Council of Gosfield, to the same effect.

Mr. Patterson—Of W. Burke and others, praying that an Act may pass to prevent the Tramway Company from using steam engines on the Kingston-road.

Mr. Morgan—Of the county Council of Norfolk, praying for certain amendments to Jurors' Act respecting selections.

Mr. Robinson—Of the Council of Wallaceburg, praying that the Bill before the House respecting the Erie and Huron Railway may pass.

Mr. Morris—Of the Hon. Alex. Vidal, praying that the Bill before the House respecting the Sarnia Gas Company may not pass.

Mr. Dryden—Of the county Council of Ontario, praying for certain amendments to the Municipal Act respecting road allowances.

Mr. Tooley—Of the County Council of Middlesex, praying that Bill No. 73, respecting the reduction of the number of county councillors, may not pass.

Mr. French—Of the County Council of Leeds and Grenville, praying for certain amendments to the Municipal Act respecting the reduction of the number of councillors.

Mr. Tooley—Of the County Council of Middlesex, praying for certain amendments to the Municipal Act respecting the collection of taxes.

Mr. Robinson—Of the Council of Bolton village, praying for certain amendments to the Assessment Act respecting the taxation of dividends.

Mr. Long—Of the Township Council of Vespra, to the same effect.

Mr. Field—Of the Township Council of Hamilton, to the same effect.

Mr. McLaughlin—Of the Township Council of Darlington, to the same effect.

Mr. Wigle—Of the Township Council of Colchester, to the same effect.

Mr. Robertson—Of the Town Council of Oakville, to the same effect.

Mr. Parkhill—Of T. W. Charlton, and others of the county of Simcoe, praying for the repeal of market fees.

REPORT.

Mr. FRASER presented the fifth report of the Committee on Private Bills.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time.

Mr. GIBSON—A Bill respecting municipal debentures.

Mr. FRASER—A Bill to amend the Ontario Drainage Act.

MARKET FEES.

Mr. FREEMAN moved for a return of all market fees and market rents in each city, town, and village in Ontario for 1879 and 1880.

Mr. MEREDITH asked the Attorney-General if there was any intention of dealing with the question of tolls. He knew there was a strong feeling that the toll gates were a relic of barbarous times. If the Government had power to deal with one side of the question it was likely they had also power to deal with the other.

Mr. MOWAT said that the subject referred to had not escaped the attention of the Government, and it was still under consideration.

The motion was carried.

SHERIFF FEES.

In reply to Mr. Harcourt.

Mr. MOWAT said it was not the intention this session to abolish the system of paying Sheriff's fees, or deal with that question in any way.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE FUNDS.

In answer to Mr. Lauder, the Minister of Education stated that the loan from the Bank of Commerce of \$43,672 41 on the security of debentures belonging to the Upper Canada College fund had been repaid out of the resources of the College. As this answer was not explicit enough to satisfy Mr. Meredith, and as the memorandum furnished by the Bursar did not contain the necessary information as to the precise source from which the loan had been repaid, the question was allowed to remain on the order paper.

UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION.

Mr. MORRIS moved that a committee of this House be appointed composed of Messrs. Boulter, Caldwell, Crooks, Gibson (Hamilton), Graham, Harcourt, Harkin, Lauder, McLaughlin, Meredith, Morris, and Young, with instructions to consider whether, with a view to promoting higher education in the Province of Ontario, the colleges having the power to confer degrees can be affiliated with the University of Toronto on just and equitable terms to all these institutions, so as to secure, without interference with their respective autonomies, one Provincial University for Ontario, and that such committee have power to send for papers and persons, and to report from time to time. He felt that this subject was a very important one and one in which he took a deep interest. He made the suggestion and hoped the question would be discussed solely on its merits. The University of Toronto was a prosperous institution and contained students from all parts of the Province. He was glad that Knox College, the new Baptist College, and St. Michael's College were thinking of affiliating with the University. Greater educational progress would, he thought, be made if this idea was more largely considered. He was not in favour of a consolidation of all colleges, but he was in favour of colleges, having degree-conferring