

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 15.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Freeman—Of James Covernton *et al.*, of Charlotteville, praying that the Bill before the House respecting the Port Rowan and Lake Shore Railway may not pass. Of the Village Council of Petersville, praying that the Bill before the House to change the name of the village to London West may pass.

Mr. Hardy—Of the County Council of Brant, praying for certain amendments to the Jurors' Act respecting selectors. Of the City Council of Brantford, praying that no amendments may be made to the Municipal Act respecting the abolition of market fees. Of Thos. Kenny *et al.*, of Sarnia, praying that the Bill before the House respecting the Sarnia Gas Company may not pass.

By Mr. Merrick—Of Village Council of Merrickville. Mr. Cook—County Council of Simcoe. Mr. Lauder—Township Council of Collingwood. Mr. Watterworth—Township Council of Metcalfe; also Township Council of Ekfrid. Mr. White—Township Council of Sandwich East; also Township Council of Rochester. The Attorney-General—Township Council of Embro; also Township Council of Blenheim. Mr. Robertson (Halton)—Township Council of Nelson, severally praying for certain amendments to the Assessment Act respecting the taxation of dividends.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. PARDEE presented the seventh report of the Committee on Railways.

Mr. FRASER presented the ninth report of the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. BAXTER presented the second report of the Committee on Printing.

The reports were received.

FIRST READINGS.

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

Mr. Creighton—A Bill to amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Hardy—A Bill to give increased security to Mutual Fire Insurance Companies.

REPORTS.

Mr. Hardy presented the report of the Inspector of Insurance.

THIRD READINGS.

On motion of Mr. Tooley the third reading of the Bill to change the name of the village of Petersville was discharged, and the Bill, by consent, referred back to the Private Bills Committee.

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

To amend the several Acts relating to the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railway Company.

To organize the municipality of Neening.

Relating to the incorporation of the village of Brockton.

Respecting the Toronto and Nipissing Eastern Extension Railway Company.

To close part of a certain road allowance between the townships of Kingston and the village of Portsmouth.

Respecting the Waterloo County Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Ontario.

To transfer the securities of the Anglo-Canadian Mortgage Company to the Omnium Securities Company (Limited).

To authorize the Trustees of the Union Church at Port Colborne to sell certain lands.

To authorize the Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Williamstown to sell certain lands.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read a second time:—

To amend the Act respecting the registration of co-partnerships and business firms.

To make provision for the administration of justice in the county of Dufferin.

THE LIQUOR LAW.

Mr. HARDY, moving the second reading of a Bill to give increased efficiency to the laws against the illicit sale of intoxicating liquors, said this Bill was supplementary to the liquor law of the past few years. At the time the present License Act was passed it was of an experimental character, and was met by the advocates of temperance with much satisfaction, and by those dealing in liquor with some degree of hesitation. But now even the dealers were satisfied, and the provisions of the Bill he was now about to present had been largely suggested by the licensed victuallers themselves, as they had discovered that the Crooks Act properly administered was better than the former loose License Law. The House had gradually amended the first Crooks Act until it was as nearly perfect as possible; and the time had now arrived when they might deal with this license question on a broader basis. The cry that the Government were arrogating to themselves a power they did not possess in granting licenses, had not been received with favour. The pressure that could have been brought to bear upon a municipal Council, moving as they did in a narrow circle, would have prevented them from carrying out the provisions of the Crooks Act; and nobody had expressed greater satisfaction at the action of the Government than the Councils themselves. The licensed victuallers had said that the passage of the Crooks Act had the effect of putting the liquor business into the hand of a better class of men. To ascertain if this were true, he had sent a circular to the various Inspectors throughout the country, and the reply was invariably that there had been a great improvement in the class of men, and also in the class of houses engaged in the liquor traffic. The most prominent feature of the Bill was the granting of licenses to sell beer, ales, and native wines at half the cost of a regular license. Wines were included in this license to stimulate the production of that beverage in our own Province. It might be urged that spirits would be sold in place of the wine, but it would be seen that he had provided for that contingency by not allowing spirits upon premises that had such license, and an infraction of this law would