

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## FOURTH PARLIAMENT—THIRD SESSION.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 18.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

### PETITIONS.

The following petitions were laid on the table :—

Mr. Hay—From the Stratford High School Board, the Public School Board, and the Town Council of Stratford, praying that an Act may pass to vest the High School building and land in the Stratford High School Board.

Mr. Brereton—From the Town Council of Port Hope, for an Act to enable them to construct water-works.

Mr. Richardson—From the Gananoque Water Company, for an Act to authorize them to issue debentures.

Mr. Robinson (Kent)—Of the Erie and Huron Railroad, for an Act to amend their Act of incorporation.

Mr. Creighton—Of the Town Council of Owen Sound, for an Act to consolidate their debt.

Mr. Badgerow—Of the Village Council of Yorkville, for an Act to consolidate their debenture debt.

Mr. Creighton—From the Town Council of Owen Sound, for an Act to confirm an agreement between the Grand Trunk Railway and the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railway.

Mr. Wells—From the County Council of Bruce, praying that the annual grant to the Provincial Exhibition be discontinued.

Mr. Harcourt—From the County Council of Welland, for certain amendments to the Act imposing a tax on dogs.

Mr. Wells—From the County Council of Bruce, for certain amendments to the jury law; also from the same, that county and other officials be paid by salary instead of fees.

Mr. Metcalfe—From the City Council of Kingston, against abolishing market fees.

Mr. Robinson (Kent)—From the Town Council of Chatham, that municipalities may be permitted to erect crossings over railway tracks.

Mr. Near—From Thomas Osborne and others, of Victoria, praying for certain amendments to the law of evidence.

Mr. Freeman—From C. E. Barber and others, of Norfolk, to the same effect.

### THE ADDRESS.

Mr. YOUNG, in resuming the debate on the Address, congratulated the House on the excellent programme foreshadowed by the Government in the Speech from the Throne. It was gratifying that the Government had decided to deal with the question of market fees, and the establishment of a bureau of statistics, both of which were matters of great interest to the farming community and the public generally. He also congratulated the member for Glengarry (Mr. Macmaster) on a safe delivery, after the anxiety evinced by him prior to his speech of the previous evening. (Laughter.) Referring to the introduction of Dominion politics in Ontario affairs, he reminded the Opposition that neither the Speech from the Throne nor the Government had done so. Their own leaders were the only guilty ones in this connection. It was well known that on the eve of the local elections in 1879 the Province was visited by several of the Ottawa Ministers, including the Premier, who urged upon the people the necessity of turning out Mr. Mowat to secure a fuller working of the National Policy. This attempt at Dominion interference received a fitting rebuke from the people of Ontario at that election. Coming to the statement that the present prosperous condition was attributable to the National Policy, he clearly showed by statistics and otherwise that the real cause of the revival of trade arose from several good harvests and the improvement in the lumber and timber trades. The exports of farm produce in 1880 had been \$50,000,000, as against \$34,000,000 in 1877, and it was this increased production of sixteen millions which was the main cause of the existing prosperity, and with the exception of stimulating a few large industries, the N. P. had been a drag to the extent to which it had burdened people with additional taxation. (Hear, hear.) The member for Glengarry had contradicted himself in his speech on the point as to whether or not the Boundary Award was binding. When that arbitration was decided upon no dissent to it was made by the Conservative party at Ottawa, and, so far as silent gives consent, they were consenting parties to the measure which they afterwards saw fit to repudiate when they came into power. There was little doubt that if the Mackenzie Administration had continued in power the award