

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## FOURTH PARLIAMENT—THIRD SESSION.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

TUESDAY, Feb. 7.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

### PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Nairn—Of Hamilton, McKenney, and others, of Malahide, for an Act to incorporate the London and Port Burwell Railway Company.

Mr. Tooley—Of Mr. E. Willsie and others of Westminster, to the same effect; also of John Pettitt and others, of South Dorchester, to the same effect.

Mr. Cascaden—Of the Elgin County Council to the same effect.

Mr. Nairn—W. E. Youmans and others, of St. Thomas, praying that scientific temperance text books may be introduced into Common Schools; by Mr. Gibson, Hamilton, of Rev. Septimus Jones and others, of Toronto; of Johnson Harrison *et al.*, of Halton; of R. S. Woods *et al.*, of Chatham; of Wolverton *et al.*, of Woodstock; of D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto; R. Davison, of Dundas; S. S. Nelles, of Cobourg, to the same effect.

Mr. Nairn—Of the Elgin County Council, for amendments to the Dog Tax Act; also for amendments to the Act respecting the removal of persons from the county gaols to Provincial Institutions.

Mr. Cascaden—Of the Elgin County Council for the abolition of market fees.

Mr. McKim—Of the Council of Wellington, against bonused railways being allowed to amalgamate, except with the consent of the municipalities granting the bonuses.

Mr. McMahon—Of the Wentworth County Council, for amendments to the Jury Law.

Mr. Bishop—Of D. D. Wilson and others, for amendments to the law of evidence.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Fraser presented the first report of the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Deroche presented the 7th, 8th, and 9th reports of the Committee on Standing Orders.

The reports were received.

### BILLS INTRODUCED.

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

Mr. Sinclair—An Act to incorporate Elgin College.

Mr. Morris—An Act to amend the Act of incorporation of the Rossin House Hotel Company.

Mr. Striker—An Act to consolidate the debenture debt of the village of Yorkville.

Mr. Gibson—An Act to amend the Act of incorporation of the Ontario Trust and Investment Company.

Mr. Badgerow—An Act respecting the Weston and Duffins' Creek Railway.

Mr. Wells—An Act respecting the Bell Telephone Company.

Mr. Neelon—An Act respecting the Ladies' Christian Association of St. Catharines.

Mr. Pardee—An Act to amend the Act respecting the St. Mary's, Credit Valley, and Huron Railway Company.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—An Act to amend the charter of the Ontario Trust Company.

Mr. Sinclair—An Act to declare and confirm the title of the Corporation of the village of Southampton to certain lands.

Mr. Meredith—An Act to amend the Act incorporating the Western University of London.

Mr. Deroche—An Act to incorporate the Mississippi Valley Railway Company.

Mr. Merrick—An Act to incorporate the Loyal Orange Association of Ontario West and Ontario East.

Mr. Deroche—An Act respecting By-law 217 of the county of Wellington.

Mr. Chisholm—An Act to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Wells—An Act for the relief of the trustees of Harriet Eliza Gamble.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS BILL.

Mr. PARDEE said that in rising to move the second reading of this Bill he desired to remark that the Government had, since the disallowance of the measure passed last session, given the question the fullest consideration. They had examined it in all its bearings; they had discussed and considered every objection brought against the Bill, and they had unanimously come to the conclusion that the measure passed last session, and subsequently disallowed, was as just and perfect in all its provisions as it was possible to make it. In this view the Government had thought it right to submit to the Legislature a Bill precisely similar in its provisions to the one that had been disallowed. He wished to state that that Bill had not been passed in the interests of McLaren or of Caldwell except to the extent that these gentlemen came within its provisions and scope. It was too narrow a view altogether to take of a question of this kind to suppose that the Bill was passed to meet the case of any one individual. The Bill was submitted to meet the public interest and the public necessity, and he hoped that in the discussion which would ensue the question would be dealt with from that standpoint. He proposed to show (1) that the Bill was required in the public interest, and (2) that so far as any private interests were interfered with or affected by it they were fully protected. They all knew the importance of the lumber trade of this country. Next after the agricultural interest came that of the lumbering trade. The agricultural exports from the Province of Ontario, exclusive of animals and their products, for the ten years ending 30th June, 1830, amounted in value to \$83,000,000, while the products of the woods and forests for the same period were exported to the value of \$51,000,000. The annual revenue of the Province from timber was over half a million of dollars. Hon.