

Ontario Legislature.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT—THIRD SESSION.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

FRIDAY, Feb. 17.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PRIVILEGE

Mr. WIGLE called the attention of the House to a report of the speech made by the member for North Perth (Mr. Hay) on the Address in which the hon. gentleman was made to say that he would not "wiggle" much longer on the floor of that House. (Laughter.) He wished to say that he had little faith in the hon. gentleman as a prophet.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:—

Mr. Wood—A Bill to incorporate the Ontario Bee-keeper's Association.

Mr. MEREDITH asked whether it was a public or private Bill.

Mr. WOOD replied that it was a Government Bill.

THIRD READINGS.

The Bill respecting the Canada Landed Credit Company was read a third time and passed.

A COMPLAINT.

Mr. WHITE rose and said that he understood some person from the Attorney-General's office summoned the two leading chairmen of committees to go and attend an election going on at Osgoode Hall. He supposed that it was in the interests of the country that those gentlemen should appear there.

Mr. PARDEE said he did not think the remarks worthy an answer. Gentlemen would give the Chairmen of the Private Bills and Railways the credit, that while they were attending to their duties, they attended to them closely and faithfully, and if in their professional capacity they saw fit to attend at Osgoode Hall it only remained for the member for Essex to bring the matter before the House. (Applause.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

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

M. PARDEE, on behalf of Mr. Fraser, presented the eighth report of the Committee on Private Bills.

The reports were received.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES.

Mr. MERRICK moved for a return showing the sums paid to each of the hospitals and charities in this Province in each year since Confederation, showing the total sum paid to each separate institution, and the population of the locality in which such institutions are situate. Carried.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION.

Mr. MERRICK moved for a return showing the amount received in each year and the amount paid in each year on account of the superannuation of Public School teachers; also, showing the total sum received and total sum paid out on account of such fund. Carried.

LIABILITIES OF INNKEEPERS.

Mr. McMAHON moved the second reading of the Bill empowering an innkeeper or livery-keeper to have a lien on all animals cared for by them, for payment in respect of such care. It also gave the livery-keeper power to sell the animals after a certain notice. The motion passed, and the Bill was referred to a select Committee.

RESPECTING DRAINAGE.

Mr. HAY in a few remarks moved the second reading of a Bill amending Sec. 542 of the Municipal Act regarding the maintenance of drains running through two municipalities.

Mr. MEREDITH said that he had no doubt the explanation was most lucid, yet that side of the House had not heard a word whether the hon. member was depressed or not by the remarks of the hon. member for Essex. (Laughter.) The motion carried, and the Bill was referred to the Municipal Committee.

AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. Hay's Bill giving municipalities power to apply any fund not the Sinking Fund in investments other than debentures, was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Private Bills, reporting the following without amendment:—

To authorize Gilmour & Company to make certain improvements in the River Moira.

To consolidate the debt of the town of Owen Sound.

Respecting the Prince Edward County Railway Company.

To incorporate the town of Penetanguishene.
To incorporate the Manitoulin Island Railway Company.

To amend the Act incorporating the Western University of London, Ontario, as amended.

Respecting By-law No. 217 of the County of Wellington.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The Secretary laid on the table the Public Accounts for 1881.

SECOND READINGS.

The following bills were read a second time:—
Respecting the old burying-ground of the town of Wingham.

To establish and confirm certain astronomical bearings as the true courses of side lines in the township of Harvey.

To amend the Act incorporating the Saugeen Valley Railway Company.

Respecting the Toronto and Nipissing Railway Company.

Respecting St. Paul's Church in the town of Woodstock.

To confer certain powers upon the Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

HIGH PARK TRAMWAY.

Mr. BELL moved that Bill No. 46, to incorporate the Toronto, High Park, and Western Tramway Company, be referred back to the Committee on Railways for further consideration. Carried.

THE LAW OF EVIDENCE.

The House went into Committee on the Bill to remove certain defects in the law of evidence.

The fifth clause was amended by inserting the word "affirmation" between the words "promise" and "declaration" in the last line. The fourth clause was allowed to stand for further consideration. The Committee rose, reported, and asked leave to sit again.

AGRICULTURAL AND ARTS ACT.

In Committee, the Bill to amend the Agricultural Act was considered. A discussion arose on the following clause:—

5. Section twenty of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

20. The members of the electoral district agricultural societies in each division shall, at their annual meetings, nominate a person to represent their division in the Council of the Association, each electoral district society having one vote, and the person nominated by the largest number of such electoral district societies shall be the member of the Council to represent such division.

(2) In case the vote for such member results in a tie, then the electoral district society having the largest number of members shall have the casting vote.

(3) Vacancies in the Council through death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Mr. ROSS objected to it as going back to the old system. Mr. Wood contended that the system was better than throwing the onus of deciding in cases of a tie on the Commissioner of Agriculture. He asked, however, that the clause should stand.

On the 7th clause, making the Treasurer an *ex officio* member of the Council if elected from among such Council, several members objected to a member of the Council acting as Treasurer and retaining his seat. After some discussion, the clause was allowed to stand.

On the 8th clause, defining the duties of the Council, a discussion arose on the advisability of inserting a clause compelling the Council to hold an exhibition within some certain number of years.

Mr. WOOD thought it was the idea to hold a Provincial Exhibition once in three, four, or five years. He did not think the Council would hold back too long in deciding on the next exhibition after the one at Kingston.

Mr. ROSS thought that Toronto being the most central place the Provincial Exhibition should be held there always. He proposed that a certain amount should be given by the Government each year for purely agricultural purposes. The details could be arranged by a meeting of agriculturists or by the Association of Agriculture and Arts, leaving Toronto to manage their Industrial Exhibition as a purely industrial enterprise, a branch to which they paid the most attention.

After considerable other discussion, participated in by Messrs. Deroche, Hay, and Merrick, the clause passed.

On the clause giving the Council power to dispense with an exhibition,

Mr. MERRICK objected.

The clause was allowed to stand.

The Committee then rose and reported and asked leave to sit again.

RETURNS.

Mr. HARDY presented the following returns:—The moneys expended upon the plans for Parliament Buildings; the report of the experts upon the plans of the Parliament Buildings; the report of the Fruit Grower's Association for 1881; relative to Upper Canada College; in relation to Division Courts; relating to Sheriffs; relating to gravel roads; the suits over \$100 in Division