

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

FIFTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

THURSDAY, Jan. 31.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

By Mr. Fraser—Of the Roman Catholic diocese of Toronto, for an Act to authorize a sale of land.

By Mr. Fraser—Of the Roman Catholic diocese of Toronto, for an Act to amend Act of Incorporation.

By Mr. Fraser—Of the Roman Catholic diocese of Pontiac, to amend Act of Incorporation.

By Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—Of M. Brennan *et al.*, Simcoe, to incorporate the Silver Brook Tramway Co.

By Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—Of the Omnium Securities Co.

By Mr. Clarke (Toronto)—For an Act to empower them to divide the city into drainage districts, &c.

By Mr. Badgerow—Of the municipality of Neebing, for an Act to legalize a certain agent's roll.

By Mr. Phelps—Of J. H. Peterkin *et al.*, of Toronto, against the Toronto Tenement Association Act.

By Mr. Ermatinger—Of Ed. Stock *et al.* of Etobicoke, for an Act to empower them to mortgage certain lands.

By Mr. Wilmot—Of the Napanee R. Improvement Company, for an Act to amend Act of Incorporation.

By Mr. Morris—Of the incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, for an Act to vest certain lands in them.

By Mr. Awrey—Of the Hamilton & Dundas Railway, for an Act to amend Act of Incorporation.

By Mr. Neelon—Of the St. Catharines & Niagara Central Railway Company, for an Act to amend Act of Incorporation.

Five petitions for extension of franchise to women.

By Mr. O'Connor—From the County Council of Bruce, praying that county officials may be paid by salary instead of fees.

By Mr. McKim—Of the Town Council of Mount Forest, for amendments to the Municipal Act respecting bridge maintenance.

By Mr. Chisholm—Of the County Council of Peel, respecting the levying of the dog tax.

By Mr. O'Connor—Of the County Council of Bruce, praying that ministers' dwellings may be taxed.

Seven petitions for the Torrens' system of land transfer.

By Mr. O'Connor—Of the Township Council of Brant, for relief in the matter of drains.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. MORRIS said he was gratified to see that his hon. friend opposite, the Commissioner of Public Works, was in his seat. (Cheers.) He understood that the time for presentation of Private Bills expired to-morrow, and the question was whether that should be the fast and final determination as to the time, or whether it should be extended for a week or ten days.

Mr. FRASER had no doubt but that the time would be extended, owing to the length of the debate on the Address.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. MORIN, after claiming the new member's privilege of indulgence, alluded to the attempts made to defeat him at the election and afterwards by petition. One hon. gentleman had referred to wood rangers or rangers "after wood," and if this class of men had not been in his riding, Dominion Government canal contractors and canal valuers were there, who had used their utmost endeavours to defeat him. They had made all kinds of promises to the people in order to induce them to vote against him, and they had not ceased their efforts, for they continued them right up to the time of the decision of the judges being given. It had been charged that the License Act had been administered for partisan purposes, and he would give his opinion as a License Commissioner. During the campaign these charges had been made, and shown to be entirely baseless. They had then made the same concerning the way the Act was administered there, and they were shown to be equally unfounded. Just previous to the judgment in the Queen against Hodge having been delivered the licensed victuallers in Wexland had held a meeting and decided to get their licenses from the Local Government in the future as they had done in the past. Dealing with the contentions of the member for North Hastings he proved that as far as his own district was concerned the distribution had been very equitably distributed. It was distributed according to the attendance at the schools, and if the hon. member had some other and better plan to propose he had better bring it forward. The paucity of farmers on the Government side had been adverted to by the member for South Grey. As far as his constituency was concerned they had brought out a farmer, but in the rural part of the constituency he had fallen away.

Mr. PARDEE—Perhaps there was some other

reason?

Mr. MORIN—No, we carried the county before. Take Grey, for instance, the Conservatives there sent a journalist and a gentleman who lived in Toronto. The Reformers of Huron sent two farmers, while the Middlesex Reformers sent two farmers, and when the vote came to be taken it would be found that there were more farmers on the Government side than on the Opposition side. Mr. Morin resumed his seat amid loud applause.

Mr. METCALFE congratulated the Speaker upon his assuming his duties for another term. He was in accord with his hon. friends on the other side of the House with the Address as far as it related to the agricultural interests. He spoke in high terms of the report of the Agricultural Commission. He thought the mover and seconder of the Address deserved great praise for taking their grounds in a courageous manner. He did not think the mover of that Address had made out that the Conservative party were any worse than the Reformers were. (Laughter.) He then dwelt for some time on the good results of the National Policy. He told them about the way the elections were managed in his constituency. The Commissioner of Crown Lands gave them a visit, and he said if they were going to elect a Conservative, he (Mr. Metcalfe) was as good a man as they could get. (Laughter.) He thought the arguments of the Commissioner of Crown Lands with reference to the Boundary Award and Streams Bill were "all right on the face of them." He thought the Reformers did not honestly analyze these questions. He said the Streams Bill was an unrighteous measure. He believed the present Minister of Education would perform his duties to the satisfaction of all. He thought there was too much of this system of cramming in schools, and he hoped the new Minister of Education would do all he could to put a stop to this system. He also drew attention to the unsanitary arrangement of some of the schools. He asked when they were to have a Normal School in Kingston. They should have a Normal School in that part of the Province.

Mr. BADGEROW accounted for Mr. Metcalfe's fluency in speech and gratitude to the Dominion Government by the fact that the Dominion Government had sent him on an auctioneering mission to the North-West. The occupation would account for the fluency, and the origin of the appointment the gratitude. As a private member of the House he offered the member for London his hearty congratulation on the increased strength of the leader of the Opposition in the House. Previous speakers had given their own views as to the causes for this result, but he believed the Hon. Attorney-General had hit the nail on the head when he assigned it not to the ability or the policy of the Opposition, but to the support of the Dominion Government. Referring to the late election campaign, he made a courteous allusion to his late opponent. As soon, however, as the election was over, his opponent was appointed a Queen's Counsel. Shortly before the election the county judgeship fell vacant, and it was kept open until after the election. During the election campaign one of the most active and most sleepless canvassers was a rising barrister, who afterwards was appointed County Judge. He made no complaint at this, as both were worthy of the favours they received, and was glad they had received the appointments, but the principle of giving reward for services performed remained all the same. After this, dissatisfied with the result, they decided to file a petition, and went through the riding seeking a petitioner. A poor man was found who had not sixpence to his name, and was promised a Government position if he became the petitioner. This man got the position, and the \$1,000 was put up. They then got a young man to perjure himself, and just as he was going to show how and by whom the game was set up he was taken out of the witness box by the prosecution. Next day he was appointed on the Customs. Concerning the Award he would just ask the hon. member for East Toronto if, in his calm moments, he really thought that the Mackenzie Government should have passed anticipatory legislation.

Mr. MORRIS, in reply, said that there having been a contract between the two Governments that there should be an arbitration, there should have been a ratification of that Award by anticipation—by anticipatory legislation. This Parliament having twice passed such an Act, the Hon. A Mackenzie, who had been four years in office, should have followed the example of this House.

Mr. BADGEROW then asked Mr. Morris if he had precedent for such a course.

Mr. MORRIS—I decline to make the hon. gentleman my father confessor.

Mr. BADGEROW proceeding, showed that there was no precedent for such a course, therefore the member for East Toronto could not name one, and quoted as follows a despatch from Earl Grey to Lord Elgin at the time the latter was Governor-General, on the boundary question between old Canada and New Brunswick:—

"As the ultimate proceedings must necessarily be by Act of Parliament, it does not appear to me that any legal formalities are necessary to give validity to the proceedings of the referees, which will be in the nature of a voluntary arbitration only. If there is no prospect of an agreement being made, Her Majesty's Government would have to take up the question if a decision of a court of law was not obtained. This latter course appeared unsuited to the case."

This was the precedent followed by the Mackenzie Government, which was acquiesced in and approved by Sir John at the time, and was the true