

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

FIFTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

FRIDAY, Feb. 1.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Sills—To incorporate the Niagara Falls Water-Power Company.

By Mr. Morris—The Toronto City Council, praying that an Act may pass to empower them to borrow money for sewerage and drainage purposes.

By Mr. Fraser—Of George Taylor Falford and others, of Brockville, praying that an Act may pass to incorporate the Brockville & Sault Ste. Marie Railroad.

By Mr. Sills—Of H. B. Rathbun and others, of Deseronto, for an Act to revive and amend the Act incorporating the Gananoque & Rideau Railway Company and changing its name.

By Mr. Sills—The Village Council of Gananoque, for an Act to legalize a certain by-law in favour of the Gananoque & Rideau Railway Company.

By Mr. Sills—Town Council of Trenton, for an Act to legalize a certain by-law in favour of the Gananoque & Rideau Railway.

By Mr. Neelon—The Township Council of Clinton, for an Act to incorporate the Niagara & St. Catharines Railway.

By Mr. Neelon—The Township Council of Louth, for an Act to incorporate the St. Catharines & Niagara Central Railway.

By Mr. Harcourt—Toronto & Nipissing Eastern Extension Railway Company, for an Act to change the name of the Company to "The Irondale, Bancroft, & Ottawa Railway Company."

By Mr. Harcourt—The Lake Simcoe Junction Railway Company for an Act to authorize the company to sell to or amalgamate with other companies.

By Mr. McCraney—Town Council of Dresden, for an Act to incorporate the Dawn Tramway Company.

By Mr. Balfour—Of Delos R. Davies, of South Colchester, for an Act to authorize the Supreme Court of Ontario to admit him to practice as a solicitor.

By Mr. Clarke—The incorporated Synod of the diocese of Toronto, for an Act to incorporate the churchwardens and vestries in the diocese of Toronto.

By Mr. Ferris—Of W. H. Beatty and others, of Toronto, praying that an Act may pass to incorporate the Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo Railway Company.

By Mr. Gould—Of the Township Council of Reach, praying that the franchise may be extended to women having property qualification.

By Mr. Gould—The Township Council of Rama, praying that the franchise may be extended to women having property qualification.

By Mr. Gillies—Village corporation of Port Elgin, for certain amendments to the Municipal Act respecting the appointment of collectors.

Eleven petitions of municipal councils, for an Act to simplify the laws for the transfer of real estate in Ontario.

By Mr. Wood—Of Charles Payne and others, of Wallaston, praying for a grant for a road.

PRIVATE BILLS.

On motion of Mr. Fraser the time for presenting petitions was extended till Friday next.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. PHELPS said it would be his duty to uphold the Province in all questions, and at the same time help to assist the other Provinces which composed the Confederation. He dwelt for some time on the Boundary Award. He was of opinion that it was the duty of the House to pay every attention to matters affecting Ontario, rather than to discuss the affairs of the Dominion. He emphatically denied that there was any intention on the part of the Attorney-General to use delay in the settlement of the Boundary Award for political purposes. The members of the Opposition had gone to the country and misrepresented the position of the Government on the question, and thus turned attention from the backdown of Sir John Macdonald. He had lived in the times of rebellion in this country, and from his standpoint he could not see a better method to be pursued than had been pursued at Ottawa in order to produce another.

Mr. MEREDITH—Hear, hear.

Mr. PHELPS—Let the hon. gentleman remember his hear, hear, and let the Dominion Government take the consequences of trampling under foot the rights of a free people. Concerning the question of Provincial rights, he asked the Opposition if they were prepared to go to Ottawa for their views on Ontario matters? He had been a lumberman for many years, and he gave an instance, almost on all fours, with the McLaren and Caldwell case. They had been under the necessity of floating timber down a stream which had been obstructed by a dam. The stream was only floatable in the times of freshets. The men interested in the timber above