

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

FIFTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

TUESDAY, Feb. 5th.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

By the Attorney-General—Of the County Council of Oxford, for amendments to the Municipal Act respecting the maintenance of bridges.

By Mr. Ferris—Of the Yorkville Loop Line Railway Company, for an Act to extend the time for completion of the road.

By Mr. Widdifield—Of John Robertson Miller of Goderich, for an Act to admit him to practise, as a solicitor in the Courts in Ontario.

By Mr. McLaughlin—Of Division Grange, No. 39, Sons of Temperance, Bowmanville, for amendments to the License Act respecting sale of liquor in shops.

Six petitions from township municipalities for the adoption of the Torrens system of land transfer

"MAIL" MISREPRESENTATIONS.

Mr. MOWAT, on a question of privilege, called attention to an editorial paragraph in Tuesday's *Mail*, which he read, as follows:—

"The rumour has been current for several days, and not without foundation, that Mr. Mowat has expressed his desire to retire from the Cabinet. The matter has been under the consideration of his colleagues. Mr. Pardee has been named as his successor."

"There are about as many misrepresentations in it," said Mr. Mowat, "as there are sentences. I never expressed any desire to retire from the Cabinet. (Loud cheers.) I have no such desire. (Renewed cheers.) I have reason to know there never was a time when I enjoyed the confidence of my colleagues and the Liberal party in the House and out of the House as I do at this present moment. (Renewed cheers.) As long as I enjoy that confidence I will continue to hold the position which I now occupy. (Hear, hear.) The paragraph says the matter has been under the consideration of my colleagues. That is false, also. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Pardee is named as my successor. I hope Mr. Pardee will some day occupy the position I now hold, and that others of my colleagues will in turn occupy the position. At present, however, neither Mr. Pardee nor any person else has been named. (Hear, hear.) 'The rumour has been current for several days,' says the *Mail*. I never heard of this rumour. I can discover no person on this side of the House who has heard of such a rumour. I have no doubt that no such rumour existed except in the mouths of those who stated it. (Hear, hear.) The whole statement is utterly without a shadow of foundation." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. S. WHITE accused the Liberals of being the fathers of the Gerrymander, and asserted that the John-a-mander had been undertaken solely with a view of providing for additional members needed in the House of Commons. He next occupied a long time with campaign reminiscences, and afterward treated the Boundary Award settlement without intruding one new idea. The Crooks Act he pronounced unconstitutional, and in support of this doctrine quoted the decision in the case of *Hodge v. the Queen*. He referred to the veto power, which he proved the Dominion possessed. He cavilled at the Ministerial changes, and met THE GLOBE'S statement of readiness to meet charges against the Government by a whine that if there was this eagerness to silt the matter, why did they not give some information on which the charges might be made. He believed there was reason to find fault with the Education Department, and repeated the complaint that someone already in the House had not been preferred before the present incumbent. Referred to the amendment on going into Committee of Supply, moved last session by Mr. Widdifield, with regard to keeping the expenditures within the receipts, and asserted that this had not been done, but afterward qualified this by saying he thought it had not been done.

Mr. BALFOUR contended that events had proved that a compact was entered into by which the leader of the Opposition abdicated his functions and the agreement for Dominion help had been carried out. It had been asserted that Division Court clerks had worked for the Government, but as far as his riding was concerned, a Division Court clerk was president of the Conservative Association, one of the hardest workers and most skilful manipulator. He had had salaried postmasters, salaried Dominion clerks leaving their offices for weeks and spending the time in his constituency, and distributing money wholesale amongst the electors. There had been Custom House officers exercising their influence, and the Inspector of Colonization Companies had come and worked hard for his opponent; then there had been the Amherstburg Postoffice, Kingsville Harbour, and the Colchester reef lighthouse dangled before the eyes of the people for weeks; he had the Dominion Government using the customs of the country and the laws of the country to force certain parties to come out against him. To what influence did he owe the Canada Southern Railway