

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

FIFTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

FRIDAY, Feb. 8.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

By Mr. Gould—Of Township Council of Stephenson, for an Act to incorporate the Midland Junction Railway.

By Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—Of the City Council of Hamilton, respecting the composition of the Board of Police Commissioners in cities.

By Mr. Morris—Of Wm. J. McMicking *et al.*, of Toronto, for a manhood suffrage.

By Mr. Morris—Of Wm. J. McMicking *et al.*, of Toronto, praying that assisted passages to immigrants may be abolished.

By Mr. O'Connor—Of Town Council of Walkerton, for amendments to Municipal Act respecting bridges.

By Mr. Hudson—Of Village Council of Deseronto, that the franchise may be extended to women.

By Mr. Gillies—Of County Council of Bruce, to same effect.

By Mr. Clancy—Of Agricultural Society of Kent, respecting the free distribution of the surplus produce of the Agricultural Farm.

By Mr. Balfour—Of County Council of Essex, for aid to the town of Amherstburg on account of railway bonus liabilities.

By Mr. Wood—Of A. R. Ross, for aid to extend the Midland Railway.

Four petitions respecting the Torrens land system.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. ERMATINGER—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. WHITE—Bill to amend the Act respecting short forms of mortgage.

Mr. MEREDITH—Bill to amend the Consolidated Municipal Act of 1883.

Mr. O'CONNOR—Bill to amend chapter 161 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario.

EXTENSION OF TIME.

On motion of Mr. Fraser the time for receiving petitions was extended till the 15th inst.

Mr. CREIGHTON moved for a return showing in detail all sums claimed by or allowed to returning-officers in connection with the last election in Algoma. Carried.

SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS.

Mr. WOOD moved for a return showing the assessed value of property in each school section for 1883, the rate on the dollar, and amount received from the Government. He contended that great inequality was shown in the matter of the Government grant and the assessment for school purposes.

WEST MIDDLESEX.

Mr. ROSS was sorry that he could not give the information for school sections, as it was returned to the Department for the townships. If the motion were passed circulars would have to be sent to the inspectors to send in returns just as they receive them, and would take time.

The motion was carried.

THE ALGOMA ELECTION.

Mr. CREIGHTON resumed the debate on the Algoma election. He contended in general terms that the Government had done wrong in having too few polling places. He believed the Government were ignorant of the topography of the country.

Mr. AWREY said the only real trouble with the hon. member and his friends was that they had failed to wrest that constituency from the Reform party. (Hear, hear.) There were only 39 voters on Cockburn Island, instead of 100, as stated by the hon. member for North Grey. However, there were 145 American fishermen there who had no votes. The Opposition had offered the deputy returning-officer of the Township of Robinson \$200 to allow these men to vote. This was fourteen miles from Cockburn Island. Some 70 of these fishermen voted in Thessalon where the returning-officer did not know them. (Hear, hear.) There were only ballot papers for legitimate voters. They started for Bruce Mines with the other 70. However, they did not arrive there. They could have gone to Barrie Island or Gore Bay, but they did not think it advisable to do so. He referred to the statement made by Big Push Wilkinson that the fiat had gone forth from Ottawa that Mowat must go. At Coburn Island at the Dominion elections there were 69 ballots cast, while there were only 39 legal voters. The member for East Grey had told the people of Algoma that the Provincial Government was whipped; he had assured them upon his honour that the people of Algoma were not receiving enough from the Provincial Government, and that the Opposition, if they got into power, would give them more. He (Mr. Awrey) concluded by remarking that he had shown that every voter on Cockburn Island had had an opportunity of voting.

Mr. MEREDITH quoted the Upper Canada Bible Society's report, which stated that