

THURSDAY, Feb. 28.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. GIBSON presented the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

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

Mr. BAXTER presented the second report of the Committee on Printing.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. DRYDEN—Bill to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among horses and other domestic animals.

Mr. MOWAT—Bill respecting the property of married women.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—
To Incorporate the Dawn Tramway Company and to authorize the town of Collingwood to issue certain debentures.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. O'CONNOR, on a question of privilege, stated that in THE GLOBE of Thursday he was made to quote the *Bruce Herald* in speaking of the people sent to Walkerton as follows:—"Were a respectable looking and intelligent lot of people. They were mostly, or all, evicted tenants from the west coast of Ireland; not a poorhouse man, woman, or child in the whole lot." The quotation should have ended at the word "Ireland," the statement "not a poorhouse man, woman, or child in the whole lot" being Mr. O'Connor's own words.

DEBATE ON THE BUDGET.

Mr. WOOD, in resuming the debate on the Budget, said he was much impressed with the clear statement of the hon. Treasurer. He could not, however find two gentlemen in the House who fully understood the question of the forty-year debentures. He asked where they were financially. Were they drifting from year to year just as they received money from Crown Lands to supply the wants of the Province? He thought they were drifting. He dwelt on the different increases of expenditure, and chiefly referred to the expenditure on Colonization Roads. He was satisfied that the Government could save one-half if the different grants were placed under the control of the Councils of the local municipalities. The Government had made a serious mistake when they authorized two series of school books for the Province. The defence of the Minister of Education was a most ingenious one. The Minister of Education had a great task before him. He had to deal with different reforms in his department, such as the superannuation question, the Reader question, and the equitable distribution of Government grants. He would need all the assistance his colleagues and the House could give him. He thought the amendment submitted by Mr. Carnegie would meet the case.

Mr. MEREDITH thought it would be just as well for the hon. gentlemen opposite to consider the statement of the first Treasurer of a Reform Government in Ontario. He objected to comparisons made between Ontario and Quebec. He quoted the statement of Mr. Mackenzie in his Budget Speech in 1872. In Quebec there were two languages, which increased the cost of civil government. His hon. friends had not said that the expenditure of the Province should not increase, but they did claim that the expenditure had increased too fast, and soon the expenses of the Government would have to be paid by direct taxation. He attempted to ridicule the argument of the hon. member for West Durham, when he compared the cutting of timber to the farmer cutting his wheat, in order to show that the proceeds of this timber were receipts and not capital. The hon. gentleman had lectured the House on the Canadian Pacific resolutions, but he did not know whether it was a discussion for this House. He would tell the hon. gentleman opposite that the course his party had taken was a course inimical to the interests of this Province. While they were preaching about monopoly in Manitoba with its population of 100,000 souls, and while they were so anxious about their friends hundreds of miles away, they were not thinking of the people of the large Province of Ontario whom these gentlemen were willing to bind hand and foot to the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada. And these gentlemen talked about a monopoly for twenty years of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and they were prepared to shatter the whole commerce of the Province of Ontario for years to come. The hon. gentlemen in order to meet the difficulties which the finances were preventing, had attempted in two ways to make a departure. One was the increase of the Provincial licenses. This would not promote the cause of temperance at all, but would take away from the municipalities of the Province of Ontario funds they were now receiving and put them into the Provincial treasury. There was no subject of graver character than the proposition of his hon. friend—to establish for the first time a Provincial debt. He denounced in strong terms the policy of the Government with regard to the new railway debenture scheme, and asserted that the Government were proposing to create a Provincial debt for this purpose, as well as for the erection of Parliament Buildings. The excuse for this was that the Government said posterity were concerned and therefore should bear a portion of