

MONDAY, March 10.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

FIRST READINGS

Mr. MOWAT—Bill to amend the statutes respecting the establishment of municipal institutions in the district of Algoma.

Mr. MOWAT—Bill to amend the statutes respecting Masters and Servants' Act.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time :—
Respecting the Gananoque & Rideau Railway Company.—Mr. Sills. To consolidate the debt of the town of Palmerston.—Mr. McKim. To authorize the corporation of the town of Strathroy to purchase certain lands therein for a public cemetery.—Mr. Ross (Middlesex). Respecting the Yorkville Loop-Line Railway Company.—Mr. Ferris. Respecting a certain by-law of the town of Trenton.—Mr. Sills. To incorporate the Silver Brook Tramway Company.—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

PRIVATE BILLS.

The House in Committee reported the following bills :—To amend the Acts respecting the Napanee River Improvement Company.—Mr. Wilmot. Respecting the St. Catharines and Niagara Central Railway Company.—Mr. Neelon. Relating to the municipality of Neobing.—Mr. Lyon. To amend the Act to transfer the securities of the Anglo-Canadian Mortgage Company to the Omnium Securities Company.—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton.) Respecting the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway Company.—Mr. Awrey. To incorporate the Toronto, Hamilton, & Buffalo Railway Company.—Mr. Goud. To authorize the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario to admit Delos Rogest Davis to practise as a solicitor.—Mr. Baifour. To incorporate the Toronto Tenement Building Association.—Mr. Badgerow.

RECTORY SALE ACT.

The bill to amend the Synod and Rectory Sales Act, affecting the Diocese of Toronto, was read the second time.

ANOTHER WORLD'S SHOW.

Mr. ROSS (Huron), in reply to Mr. WHITE said it was not the intention of the Government to make such arrangements as will enable this Province to be represented by way of promoting an exhibit of the products of the Province at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition at New Orleans.

LICENSE DUTIES.

Mr. PRESTON asked whether the Government intend to collect in future, as in the past, through their license officials, a revenue from municipalities in which no licenses are issued, and where the Dunkin Act is in force, in aid of the license fund of the district in which said municipalities are situated.

Mr. HARDY said the question was founded on a misapprehension, as no revenue was derived from municipalities where the Dunkin Act was in force except in Stormont, in which were exceptional circumstances.

THE TORRENS SYSTEM.

Mr. ERMATINGER moved that in the opinion of this House a system of land transfer and registration similar to that known as the "Torrens" system is suited to the requirements of this Province, and should be introduced upon an optional or voluntary basis therein. He proceeded to recite the present system, and gave many illustrations of the difficulties experienced in obtaining a good title, even after it had been ascertained that the registry office entries were all right. Notwithstanding there was a "Quieting Titles Act," the trouble was it would not remain quieted, and it was proposed to keep the title perfect from the time that it was pronounced perfect. He proceeded to remark that it had been adopted in the Australian colonies and British Columbia. He stated by the operation of the Act that in the Australian colonies an insurance or guarantee fund amounting to \$1,200,000 had been formed. It had been objected that the cost of bringing land under the Act would be large, but in Australia it had been found to vary from £3 to £20. After stating that a system similar had been adopted in England, he quoted Lord Coleridge, Lord Selborne, and others in favour of the Torrens system.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. ERMATINGER resumed his address in support of his motion. He did not think the lawyers would stand in the way of such a reform. Their revenues would not be so largely affected. There would be an increased activity in the real estate market if the Torrens System was adopted. The system he thought should be introduced on an optional or voluntary basis. THE GLOBE had advocated the system for the North-West Territories, and he thought that newspaper had taken the right stand with reference to the question. He gave a list of financial societies and councils which had petitioned in favour of the system. He moved his resolution.

Mr. WHITE seconded the resolution and expressed his approval of the system.

Mr. BADGEROW spoke in favour of the system. It mattered not who would suffer by the introduction of the Torrens System if it was in the interests of the public. There were, no doubt, difficulties in the way, and he thought they should consider the question fully before taking any action. He cited a number of cases