

TUESDAY, March 11.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) presented the fourteenth report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. FRASER presented the report of the Municipal Committee.

FIRST READINGS

Mr. FRASER—Bill to amend the Line Fences Act.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. FERRIS presented the first report of the Public Accounts Committee.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—
To declare valid a certain survey of part of the town of Cornwall—Mr. Ross (Cornwall); to authorize the Toronto Street Railway Company to issue mortgage debentures, and for other purposes—Mr. Badgerow; relating to the Municipality of Neebing—Mr. Lyon; to amend the Act to transfer the securities of the Anglo-Canadian Mortgage Co. to the Omnium Securities Company—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton); to amend the Act to impose a tax on dogs, and for the protection of sheep—Mr. Chisholm; to amend the Act respecting the expenditure of county funds in certain cases—Mr. Waters; and to amend the Ontario Drainage Act—Mr. Balfour.

MORNING SESSION.

Mr. MOWAT moved "that when this House adjourns to-day, and on each other day during the present Session, it do stand adjourned until eleven o'clock on the following day, Mr. Speaker to leave the Chair each day at one o'clock until three o'clock without question being put; and that when this House adjourns on Fridays, it do stand adjourned until Saturday at eleven of the clock, for Government business only; and on Mondays Government Orders to be placed on the Orders of the day, after Public Bills and Orders."

Mr. MEREDITH objected to morning sessions of the House till the Public Accounts Committee had completed its work. The hon. gentlemen opposite were preparing to prevent a further examination of the Public Accounts this session.

Mr. HARDY said the hon. gentlemen opposite had been pointlessly and aimlessly wandering through volumes and volumes of papers. The Committee had been in session from eleven to one o'clock almost every day since they had organized. The hon. Chairman had been compelled, through serious illness in his family, to be absent two days. When there was no quorum on one day the Committee had not been called together. The hon. leader of the Opposition had not given notice to have a meeting called that day. The Committee had not been able to find anything against the Government. He could not see why the Committee could not meet at nine or ten o'clock when the House could hold morning sessions.

Mr. CREIGHTON said to-day was the first on which the Public Accounts Committee had been able to go into the accounts of 1883.

Mr. FRASER said the whole burden of the complaint was that in two days there had been no meeting on account of a want of quorum, and this was almost an unexampled thing for that Committee to be able to sit day after day through the session, for they had found that day after day there had been no quorum, and the Government side of the House was not to blame for this. The Public Accounts for 1883 had been before the Committee, and no earnest effort had been made to reach them.

Mr. CARNEGIE was repeatedly called to order for giving information as to what had occurred before the Public Accounts Committee when the report was not before the House. He continued with a tirade against the Government with reference to public expenditure, and claimed they had got a great deal of evidence against the Government. He did not think the Public Accounts Committee would get through their work till next June or July if they proceeded at the same rate as at present.

Mr. ROSS (West Middlesex) said the Opposition were trying to get the Government to dictate to a committee which always had regulated its own affairs. The leader of the Opposition had made a mistake if he thought there was the least disposition to prevent a full investigation of the public accounts. At Ottawa, where they had to investigate the accounts relating to an expenditure of \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000, they had to be content with four to six meetings.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN had attended every meeting of the Public Accounts Committee. The whole management of the Committee was in the hands of the hon. leader of the Opposition, and if it had not been so conducted to suit the hon. gentleman the fault lay with him (Mr. Meredith). (Hear, hear.)

A division was called for on Mr. Mowat's resolution, which resulted as follows:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Awrey, Badgerow, Balfour, Balantyne, Baxter, Bishop, Biehard, Caldwell, Casca-den, Chisholm, Cook, Drury, Dryden, Fraser, Freeman, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Giles, Gould, Graham, Hagar, Harcourt, Hardy, Hart, Laidlaw, Lees, McCraney, McIntyre, McKenzie, McKim, McLaughlin, McMahon, Master, Morin, Mowat, Murray, O'Connor, Pardee, Phelps, Ray-side, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Sills, Snider, Waters, Widdifield, Young—47.

NAYS.—Messrs. Baskerville, Blythe, Carnegie, Clancy, Clarke (Toronto), Creighton, Denison,