

SATURDAY, March 15.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 a.m.

Mr. Hardy presented a statement showing in detail the number of police officers employed on behalf of the Province in the disputed territory, and the expenditure incurred.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—Bill respecting proceeding on mortgages—Mr. White; bill to amend the Act respecting Coroners' Inquests—Mr. Waters; bill to incorporate the Town of Port Arthur—Mr. Lyon; bill respecting securities vested in the Treasurer of the Province—The Attorney-General; bill respecting the distribution of estates of which the Attorney-General is Administrator or Trustee—The Attorney-General.

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex) moved the ratification of an Order in Council respecting Collegiate Institutes. He explained the Order in Council was the same as he had brought before the House a day or two ago, with one or two amendments. He proposed for the present to withdraw the clause requiring \$4,500 as a minimum of salaries to be paid in Collegiate Institutes. He didn't wish to be understood as receding from the position he took as to the propriety of exacting such a standard, but he thought it might be as well to go slow and to delay the matter for another year. With that exception the Order in Council was precisely the same as before, one or two verbal amendments excepted.

The motion was carried.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENTS.

The House went into Committee on the bill to amend the Municipal Act. He explained the first important clause was the third section, which was intended to give effect to the right of unmarried women and widows to vote at municipal elections when qualified by property or income.

Mr. MEREDITH didn't see why the right to vote at such elections should not extend to farmers' daughters on the same principle as farmers' sons had received the franchise. This, he said, would only be consistent with the provision in the bill giving unmarried women the right to vote on income. He thought, however, it would be wise to delay the whole question of female franchise till next year, when it could be seen how far the country was in favour of it. In the old and intelligent State of Massachusetts they had recently refused the municipal franchise to women.

Mr. MOWAT had no doubt the people of Massachusetts were intelligent, but the passing of this bill would show the people of Ontario were more intelligent.

Mr. MEREDITH moved the third clause be struck out. The motion was lost, and the clause passed.

The fifth clause provided that persons nominated for municipal offices must within two days of such nomination resign, and in default of such resignation he should be taken as nominated for the office. As the law now stood persons might resign up to the hour of going to the polls, giving the deputy returning-officer no time to have the ballots properly printed. The clause in question removed the difficulty by making it certain that after the second day from nomination all were to be recognized as candidates.

The clause was carried.

Mr. FRASER explained that section 6 of the bill gave power to the Clerk of a municipality, in the absence or death of the Mayor or head of the Council, to call meetings of the Council on a requisition to him signed by a majority of the members of the Council.

The section was adopted.

Section No. 8 of the bill repeals the law by which a bare majority of a Municipal Council could exempt a manufacturing establishment or water-works, and provides that any such exemption shall be made only on a two-thirds majority of the Council.

The section was passed.

The bill also gives the Municipal Councils power to pass by-laws, to regulate the cleanliness of wharves and docks, and for the establishing, protecting, regulating, and cleansing public and private wells, reservoirs, and other public and private conveniences for the supply of water, for closing public and private wells, for procuring an analysis of any such water, and for making reasonable charges for the use of public water, and for other purposes.

The Committee rose and reported the bill.

Mr. MEREDITH asked if the Government intended to introduce their Franchise Bill this session.

Mr. MOWAT replied the Government did not intend to do so this session.

The House adjourned at 2 p.m.