

MONDAY, March 17.

The Speaker took the chair at eleven o'clock.

### THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—  
Respecting co-operative associations, joint stock companies, benevolent societies, and other corporations—Mr. Mowat. To amend the Act respecting ditches and water courses—Mr. Waters. For the relief of the Venerable Alexander Dixon and others—Mr. Morris. To amend the Acts respecting the Napanee River Improvement Company—Mr. Wilmot.

### IN COMMITTEE.

The House went into Committee, with Mr. Baxter in the chair, on Mr. Chisholm's bill to authorize the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville to purchase land for a postoffice site. The bill was reported without amendment.

### UNIVERSITY STATE AID.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) moved for a return of all communications between the Senate of the University of Toronto and the Government on the subject of further State aid to the University. In support of his motion, he said he was not at all desirous that the question should be discussed at the present time with the view of ascertaining or committing the House to an opinion on the subject of granting further State aid to the University. All the hon. members were aware that such an application had been made. They were aware of the proceedings which had been taken by the Senate leading up to this application and must also be aware of the very long controversy which had engaged the attention of the press for months past. The subject was one of great importance, and had been ably discussed by those who proposed that further aid should be afforded the University, as well as by those who had taken the opposite ground, opposing State aid to one university, and by those who had the ground that if further State aid was afforded the University of Toronto, the claims of other Universities in the Province were equally deserving of recognition, and that further aid should be afforded to them. It was well known that during the past month or so suggestions had been made regarding the matter of federation of the universities by those interested in these institutions, and while there was the slightest possibility of what had been suggested taking a tangible shape he did not think it desirable for the House to plunge this question into the arena of political discussion. He wished it to be understood that he moved his motion simply to bring down the report and copies of the various papers which had been transmitted to the Government by the University authorities, which would show to some extent the basis of claim which the University authorities made for State aid. This was not the first time he had stood up in this House and called attention publicly to the demand that had been felt in the University for further assistance. It was not the first time that he had called attention to the fact that while the number of students had doubled and trebled during the past ten or fifteen years, the staff in the University remained about the same as it did fifteen or twenty years ago. The object of his motion would be served if he could induce the hon. members of the House between now and the next session to devote a little attention to University matters. It was one of the three stages of our educational system which, he thought, deserved a little more attention on the part of members of this House than it had hitherto received. Our Public School system was the first stage, the High Schools the second, but while the University was the third, this higher educational system had been left to take care of itself. The question would undoubtedly have to be dealt with in the near future, and the motion which he expected to be carried would serve a useful purpose.

Mr. MORRIS was in favour of the motion. Some time ago he had suggested that the views of the authorities of outlying colleges should be ascertained with reference to the question of federation of the colleges. He asked the hon. gentleman to add the following words to his motion after the words "University of Toronto":—"Or the authorities of any other university or any other person."

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex) explained that he had received no official communications from any other universities with reference to the question suggested by his hon. friend from East Toronto. He (Mr. Ross) had received papers from the Senate of the University of Toronto, in which the aid desired was very clearly stated. These papers would be brought down immediately. He was not sorry that his hon. friend from Hamilton had moved his motion and called the attention of the House to this question. If the Public and High Schools of the Province were going to do good work, the teachers must receive the stimulus which the University gave them. They could give their attention during the recess to this question, and see if they could not meet next session with more mature judgment as to what had better be done under the circumstances. He would bring down the papers without delay.

Mr. MORRIS said if the hon. gentleman would give him the assurance that there was no other correspondence such as desired by his amendment he would withdraw it.

Mr. ROSS—I have no other papers.

Mr. FERRIS explained that there had been a wide discussion in the newspapers, and the only