

TUESDAY, March 18.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

### NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Mr. ROSS (Huron) moved that the bill to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and of diseases affecting fruit trees be referred back to the Committee of the Whole House. In Committee, Mr. Ross moved that the bill be amended so as to strike out the words "wild mustard," but that the sale of seed with which the seed of wild mustard is contaminated be prohibited. This amendment was made owing to the great difficulty of eradicating this weed. This was adopted, and the bill read a third time.

### THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—  
To incorporate the village of Woodville—Mr. McIntyre. To amend the Acts relating to road companies—Mr. Mowat. To amend the Line Fence Act—Mr. Fraser. To amend the Acts incorporating Victoria College and Albert College—Mr. Ferris. To amend the Act respecting the administration of justice in unorganized tracts—Mr. Ermatinger. To amend the revised statute respecting the establishment of Municipal Institutions in the Districts of Algoma, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing, and Thunder Bay—Mr. Mowat. To extend the provisions of the revised statute respecting Master and Servant—Mr. Mowat. Respecting the Districts of Algoma and Thunder Bay—Mr. Mowat. To authorize the trustees of the estate of James Stock, deceased, to mortgage certain property—Mr. Ermatinger.

### THE FACTORIES ACT.

The House went into Committee on Mr. Fraser's bill for the protection of persons employed in factories, to be known as "The Ontario Factories Act of 1884." The first section, taken from the Imperial Act, provides that a child, young girl, or woman, who does any work in a factory is to be deemed employed in the factory. The fifth clause is from the Dominion Act, though it appears to have been based on the Imperial Statutes. It provides that a child, young girl, or woman, is not to be employed where permanent injury to health is likely, and whoever so employs any child, young girl or woman, shall upon summary conviction thereof, incur and be liable to imprisonment in the common gaol of the county wherein the offence has been committed, for a period not exceeding six months, or to a fine of not more than \$100, with costs of prosecution, and in default of immediate payment of such fine and costs, then to imprisonment as aforesaid. Clause 6 and its sub-sections provide that a child under twelve years of age shall not be employed in a factory except upon the possession of a certificate stating its age. No child between twelve and fourteen shall be employed; no child, young girl, or woman, shall be employed more than ten hours in one day, nor more than sixty hours a week; not less than an hour shall be allowed for dinner. Clauses 7 and 8 relate to the closing of machinery, and permitting time lost by reason of accidents to machinery to be made up by the employees working overtime. Clauses 9 and 10 relate to minor particulars as to posting notices, and 11 provides for procuring an efficient sanitary condition of the building in which the children and young women are employed. By section 13 the inspector may take a physician into a factory. Under section 14 a penalty of not more than twelve months' imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$500 can be imposed upon any owner or employer for keeping a factory so that the safety of persons employed is endangered. The 15th section provides for the fencing of machinery and hoistways, and the following section provides for the prevention of fire. The parent of a child or young girl employed contrary to the Act is liable to a penalty under section 19, and section 25 and sub-sections define the power of the Inspector.

The bill was reported.

### THE STREAMS BILL.

Mr. PARDEE moved the second reading of the bill to protect the public interests in rivers, streams, and creeks. He stated that it was not his intention to enter into a discussion upon the merits of the bill on Provincial rights. It would be noticed that there was a slight change in the bill as originally introduced. The bill now provided that in case of a dispute between the owner of the improvements and the user the rates shall be fixed by the County Judge, with an appeal to one of the Judges of the Superior Courts. He concluded by pointing out that the more he administered the Crown Lands Department the more was he convinced that the bill was needed in the interests of the whole Province, and if the decision of the Supreme Court should be upheld then there will be an absolute necessity for the law in the interest of the settlers, lumbermen, and the whole Province. If the decision of the Court of Appeal should be upheld, then the bill is required as the law as it now stands does not provide any compensation for the use of improvements.

Mr. MEREDITH made a long speech on the bill, adducing the arguments that the bill was *ultra vires* of the Provincial Legislature, and that it took away a man's property without compensation.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the