

WEDNESDAY, March 19.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

Mr. HARCOURT presented the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections with reference to the conspiracy to overthrow the Mowat Administration. The report contained copies of the letters found on the prisoners Kirkland and Wilkinson, which were read to the House.

Mr. CREIGHTON asked why all the letters which had been read at the meeting of the Committee should not be included in the official report to the House.

Mr. FRASER explained that the copies used in the report had been got from the County Attorney, and the other letters, which had not been included in the report, he had not seen before today. He had no objections to these letters being included in the report.

It was decided to include all the letters in the report.

THIRD READINGS.

Mr. LEES moved that his bill to amend the Division Courts Act be referred back to the Committee and amended, so as to give boarding-house keepers the preference in attaching money of any boarder due by a third party.

The bill was referred to the Committee of the House and amended.

The bill was read a third time together with Mr. Pardee's bill to amend the Railway Act of Ontario.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Mr. GRAHAM asked whether it was the intention of the Government to print a second edition of the report of the Agricultural College and Model Farm for distribution, as requested by resolution of the Agricultural and Arts Association and others.

Mr. ROSS (Huron) explained that the matter was under the consideration of the Government.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

Mr. GIBSON moved, "That in the opinion of this House the present Parliament and Departmental Buildings are inadequate to the requirements of the public service, unfit for occupation by the Legislature, and not in-keeping with the resources and position of Ontario as the premier Province of the Dominion." In support of his motion he said the subject had already received a great deal of consideration at the hands of the Legislature. He explained the steps which had been taken during the last Parliament, when the Government laid down their policy to provide for Parliament buildings not to exceed half a million dollars. The Government had afterwards brought down their scheme when it was found that the expense would exceed the amount set apart. In bringing this matter before the House at the present time he wished it understood that he did it on his own responsibility. He had had no consultation whatever with members of the Government in regard to their policy. He placed his resolution on the notice paper, and had not spoken to a member with regard to the matter since. It was almost superfluous for hon. gentlemen to get up in this House and argue that the proposition which he had laid down in the motion was not a correct one. He had already given his opinion in the Legislative Chamber this session. He believed that during the winter months, when it was not possible to throw open the windows and doors of the building to let in fresh air, the building could not be kept in a pure or healthy state. One objection which had had some weight with the policy of the Government had been announced last year, when it was stated that the question had been sprung upon the country, and that the people throughout the Province were not in favour of the necessary expenditure for the purpose. Whatever force there was in that objection then, he was bound to say that there was no force in it now. The matter had been discussed a great deal at the last election. He did not think this matter should be dealt with in a party spirit. The various departmental offices in which the public business of this Province was carried on were totally inadequate. He defied any gentleman to go through a single department in the Parliament buildings and say that he did not consider it a disgrace and a scandal to the Province that the public business of this Province could any longer be carried on in such premises. Clerks were working in the departments in rooms which were physically insufficient. He also drew the attention of the House to how these departments were scattered about the city, at great inconvenience to the public. The rain came through the roof of nearly every office and he understood that at one time the members were forced to hoist their umbrellas in the Chamber to protect themselves from inclement weather. The question for hon. members to consider was as to whether it was right that the Province should go on in this way. He wished an expression of opinion from the House on this matter. There was also some agitation throughout the Province as to where the new Parliament buildings should be situated. He read a clipping from a Woodstock journal setting out the claims of that town for the new buildings. The Government would be offered great inducements to erect the new buildings in Hamilton.

Mr. MORRIS hoped the Government would declare their policy on the subject. He believed the buildings were almost intolerable, and dangerous to health.

Mr. HAGAR said his sense of the fitness of things was disturbed by the present buildings, and his provincial pride humiliated by them. As