

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

FIFTH PARLIAMENT--FIRST SESSION.

FRIDAY, March 21.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD—Bill to relieve certain returning-officers.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—
To authorize the corporation of the town of Orangeville to purchase land for a postoffice site—Mr. Chisholm; respecting building societies—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton); respecting pharmacy—Mr. Widdifield.

ACTION OF A MAGISTRATE.

Mr. FRENCH moved for a return of papers in a case before Mr. P. McCurry, Stipendiary Magistrate of Parry Sound, at the instance of the Parry Sound Lumber Company against several employees on a charge of alleged breach of agreement, when these employees were convicted and imprisoned, notwithstanding the Dominion law which abolished imprisonment in such cases between master and servant. In moving his motion Mr. French said it was generally understood in Parry Sound that the magistrate was influenced by this Company.

Mr. MOWAT explained that the magistrate was acting under an Act in the reign of George II., and which is not now law. He (Mr. Mowat) had thought the Magistrate was in error in convicting these men.

The motion was passed to enable Mr. French to get a copy of the agreement.

THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

On motion of Mr. Creighton the Municipal Committee was added to the list of standing committees instead of appointing select committees as formerly.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

Mr. McCRAVEY withdrew his bill to amend the Act respecting Public, Separate, and High Schools.

MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES.

Mr. FERRIS moved that in the opinion of this House it would be in the public interest that a return be laid before this House within ten days after its meeting, showing the indebtedness of any municipality to the Government, whenever the same may be in arrear for over one year either on account of principal or interest. He contended that the drainage debentures should not be allowed to fall into arrear. Carried.

THE MERCER ESTATE.

Mr. FERRIS moved for a return showing the various particulars relating to the Mercer estate and the particulars of the amounts paid to Andrew Mercer. He stated that he thought it best, notwithstanding the many motions regarding it, to have the information brought down in a concrete form, so that the information should be in the best possible form. Carried.

DISTRESS FOR RENT.

Mr. O'CONNOR, owing to the lateness of the session, asked that the order for the second reading of the bill to abolish distraint for rent be discharged. Carried.

THE TORONTO BILL.

The House in Committee considered the bill respecting the city of Toronto.

Mr. McCRAVEY moved to exclude that part of the County of York west of Parkdale and east of High Park from the portion of Brockton to be included in the city of Toronto. He contended that the piece of territory should be attached to Parkdale.

The amendment was carried.

Mr. FRASER said usually the practice had been on taking a new ward into the city that three Councillors of the municipality should be the first Aldermen without a new election. The bill, however, provided for a new election, and he proposed to amend it so that the Reeve and the two Councils having the highest number of votes should be the Aldermen without a new election.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill was reported.

VARIOUS BILLS.

The House went into Committee on the bill to secure to wives and children the benefit of life insurance, and reported it.

The bill for the protection of persons employed in factories was read the third time.

The House went into Committee on the bill respecting the Districts of Algoma and Thunder Bay.

THE MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. MEREDITH, on the third reading of the Municipal Act of 1884, moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole to consider an amendment changing the constitution of the Board of Police Commissioners by adding two Councillors to it.

Mr. MOWAT said that a great deal could be said in favour of the amendment, but experience was all the other way. The present arrangement was one which had been in force upwards of 25 years, and he had no hesitation in saying that it

had worked extremely well.

Mr. CLARKE (Toronto) said the police of Toronto were not subject to the City Council. They had no aid from the police force in carrying out the city by-laws. The city paid \$175,000 a year for the police force, still they had nothing to say about the force. There was but one city representative, but that representative, the Mayor, was generally overborne by the two permanent commissioners—the police magistrate and the county judge.

Mr. GIBSON said the City Council of the city of Hamilton had petitioned for the change, but he thought the City Council were wrong. The proposition that the Councils should fix the amount of the appropriation for police purposes was a good one, and he would vote for it.

Mr. MEREDITH'S amendment was lost on the following division:—

YEAS.—Baskerville, Blythe, Brereton, Broder, Carnegie, Clancy, Clarke (Toronto), Creighton, Denison, Ermatinger, Fell, French, Gray, Hammell, Hess, Kerns, Kerr, Lees, McGhee, McKay, Meredith, Merriek, Monk, Morgan, Morris, Mulholland, Preston, Robillard, Roe, Ross (Cornwall), White, Wilnot, Wood—33.

NAYS.—Badgerow, Balfour, Baxter, Bishop, Blezard, Broder, Caldwell, Cascaden, Chisholm, Dowling, Dryden, Ferris, Fraser, Freeman, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Graham, Hagar, Harcourt, Hardy, Hart, Lyon, McCraney, McKenzie, McLaurhlin, McMahan, Morin, Mowat, Murray, Neelon, O'Connor, Phelps, Rayside, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Snider, Waters, Widdifield, Young—38.

Mr. Sills paired with Mr. Metcalfe. Mr. Gillies paired with Mr. Hudson.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

AFTER RECESS.

The House went into Committee on the bill for further improving the administration of the law. The first clause provides that the Court may set aside fraudulent judgments, or judgments obtained by collusion of a debtor, either absolutely or in terms. The bill further provides that the sittings at Sault Ste. Marie, of the District Court of Algoma, shall be held on the second Tuesday in June and November; that the Board of County Judges may frame tariff of costs for counsel and solicitors; that witnesses may be ordered to be examined in relation to any matter pending before a foreign tribunal. Witnesses have the right of refusal to answer questions and to produce documents which would not be allowed at the trial of the cause.

The bill was reported.

MUTUAL INSURANCE.

The House went in Committee on the bill respecting supplementary licenses to mutual insurance companies, and it was reported.

THE ELECTION LAW.

The House went in Committee on the bill for the amendment of the election law and for the better prevention of corrupt and illegal practices at elections to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. MEREDITH moved an amendment to the bill that the giving of a free railway pass to a voter by a candidate or agent shall be a corrupt practice at an election. After debate the amendment was lost.

INDIAN VOTERS.

Mr. MEREDITH asked the Attorney-General if he intended to amend the clause in his bill disfranchising Indians who participated in annuities from the Government.

Mr. MOWAT stated that after this discussion he would like to take time to consider the question.

Mr. HARDY said the Government at Ottawa, who controlled the Indian affairs, sent a man from the Department at Ottawa to influence the votes of the Indians. He went on to show how the Indians in Algoma had been influenced. This was a good reason why such men should not have the franchise. He did not see why an Indian who had property such as that alluded to by Mr. White should not be given the franchise if it could be arranged in some way.

Mr. MOWAT asked the section to stand.

The Committee reported progress.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Mr. ROSS (Huron) moved that the sum of \$122,550 be appropriated for colonization roads.

After some further discussion the motion was carried.

Mr. ROSS moved that \$36,596 52 be appropriated to pay the balance of expenditure for previous years. Carried.

The sum of \$40,826 65 was appropriated for refund account. The items for miscellaneous expenditure, \$53,778 50, and unforeseen and unprovided expenditure, \$50,000, were passed, and the Committee reported.

PROROGATION.

Mr. MEREDITH asked when the House was likely to be prorogued.

Mr. MOWAT replied that the House would likely close on Tuesday next.

The House adjourned at one o'clock till eleven o'clock to-day.

SATURDAY, March 22.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 o'clock.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—
To prevent the spread of contagious diseases among horses and other domestic animals.—Mr. Dryden. To further improve the administration of the law.—Mr. Mowat. Respecting supplementary licenses to mutual insurance companies.—Mr. Mowat. Respecting the districts of Algoma and Thunder Bay.—Mr. Mowat.

DISPUTED TERRITORY.