

The House adjourned at 4 o'clock.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Friday, Feb. 13.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

REPORTS.

Mr. Widdifield presented the third report of the Committee on Standing Orders; and Mr. Baxter the first Report of the Printing Committee.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. Merrick — Bill to amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. French—Bill to amend the Division Court Act of 1880.

Mr. Dill—Bill to confirm the incorporation of the Diocese of Algoma.

Hon. T. B. Pardee — Bill respecting the Town of Sarnia.

Mr. Dowling—Bill to amend the Act incorporating the College of Ottawa.

Hon. T. B. Pardee (in the absence of Mr. McGraney)—Bill respecting the Chatham Gas Company.

Mr. Creighton — Bill respecting certain by-laws and certain debentures of the Town of Owen Sound.

Mr. Meredith—Bill respecting St. Paul's Cemetery, London.

Hon. O. MOWAT—Bill to simplify the transfer of land. He said:—The general purpose of the Act is one the importance of which it is impossible to exaggerate. Its purpose is to make the transfer of real estate as simple as the transfer of bank stock, and the title of the holder as free from danger or difficulty as ordinarily the title of the holder of bank stock is to the shares which he holds. This object requires to be but stated in order that everybody may see how very important it is, and how large a number of persons are interested in it. It is some 120 years since this system was devised in one of the colonies. It was regarded as so important then, and the matter was so new, that it was made a great issue between the two political parties, and the result was the adoption of the system. I need not remind the House of the great contrast of the state of things which we would have under this system as compared with the state of things now in regard to our titles. Now the

COMPLICATION OF TITLES

is very serious, and there is no title to land in the country which is not in danger of complication. Every transaction which takes place, every deed, every mortgage, every will increases the complication of a title and increases the danger of a defect that may arise somewhere in that title. Now, this system which this Bill proposes to introduce puts an end to the complication.

Mr. MEREDITH—Does the Bill make it optional?

Hon. O. MOWAT—I was going to refer to that. In the first place the system is made optional. I think these laws, in every colony where introduced, that I have had an opportunity of examining, have made the adoption of the system optional at first. I know that the enthusiastic advocates of the system would make it compulsory here, but we do not think that an expedient thing to do just now. If it is found to work as well here—as I believe it will—as elsewhere, no doubt the whole land of the Province will be brought under it, but at the present time we must regard it as an experiment, and in order to make sure that our