

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Thursday, March 12.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 p.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Baxter presented the third report of the Standing Committee on Printing.

Hon. A. S. Hardy presented the first report of the Standing Committee on Municipal Law.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) presented the 14th report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Hon. T. B. Pardee presented the 7th report of the Standing Committee on Railways.

THE ELECTION ACT.

Hon. A. S. HARDY, in introducing a Bill to amend the Election Act, said that it embodied a clause relating to the disqualification of Dr. Dowling, and followed the precedent of the Ottawa Bill relating to Sir Charles Tupper. (Laughter.) The Bill was read the first time.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. Gillies—To amend the Consolidated Municipal Act of 1883.

Mr. Fraser—To amend the Voters' Lists Act.

Mr. Mowat—Respecting summary convictions.

Mr. Ross (Huron)—To amend the Act imposing a tax on dogs for the protection of sheep.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

Hon. A. M. ROSS introduced a Bill to make further provision regarding the public health.

Mr. MEREDITH asked Mr. Ross to make an explanation of the changes which his Bill would make. He said that under the provisions of the Act as it stands too much power was vested in the hands of the Local Boards of Health. They had the power to interfere with valuable property. The Local Board of Health of the Village of London West had issued orders respecting Saunby's dam on the river at London, which would destroy the value of a considerable deal of property. They had not desired to exercise all the power given them by the Act, but had brought the matter under the consideration of the Provincial Board of Health. He hoped that the hon. gentleman would make some provision in his Bill, limiting, or at least clearly defining, the power of the Local Boards of Health.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said the object of this Bill was more in the direction of providing machinery for enforcing regulations which were necessary in the interests of the public health. One provision of the Act passed last session was that Municipal Councils should appoint medical health officers, but some of these did not do this, and one change now proposed was to give the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council power to appoint such officers in places where an epidemic had broken out if the Councils did not take action. So far as regarded the dam at London to which the hon. gentleman had referred the Local Board of Health had done no more than was a praiseworthy act. They had been calling the attention of other Councils to a matter affecting the public health, and as they had taken no action about the dam there was no room for complaint. The hon. gentleman must remember that these Local Boards of Health were appointed by the Municipal Councils, and that, therefore, they would not act in an arbitrary way.

Mr. MEREDITH said the hon. gentleman did not seem to appreciate his objection. On one side of the river at London they had a population of 20,000 and on the other—London West—there were only 1,500. The city of London Board of Health thought there was no necessity for what the London West Board of Health proposed to be done with reference to Mr. Saunby's dam. He did not think it advisable that small bodies should have the right to exercise such a large power.

The Bill passed its second reading.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. MEREDITH said before the orders of the day were called he wanted to refer to a report of some observations he was said to have made yesterday with regard to the name of Mr. David Mills, in connection with the Boundary case. What he said was that in the Public Accounts the \$4,300 paid to Mr. Mills appeared as a payment on account, while in the Public Accounts Committee it appeared to be a payment in full,