

Fifth Parliament --- Third Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

FRIDAY, Feb. 19.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS.

Mr. Gibson presented the third report of the Committee on Private Bills.

Hon. T. B. Pardee presented the fourth report of the Committee on Railways.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time:—

Mr. Wood—To prevent minors frequenting billiard, bagatelle, and pool rooms.

Mr. Freeman—Respecting gas and water companies.

Mr. Balfour—To incorporate the Don Tramway Company.

Mr. Clancy—To amend the Municipal Act.

Hon. O. Mowat—Respecting the estates of deceased persons.

LEAMINGTON AND ST. CLAIR RAILWAY.

On motion of Mr. BALFOUR, the Bill respecting the Leamington & St. Clair Railway was read a third time.

JOINT STOCK COS'. RETURNS.

Mr. LEES asked whether the Government have received from the different Joint Stock Road Companies the Returns required by Sections six and seven of Chapter 24, 47 Vic., as asked for last Session.

Hon. A. S. HARDY said the return would be found in sessional paper No. 81 of 1885.

GAS AND WATER COMPANIES.

Mr. CARNEGIE moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act respecting joint stock companies for supplying cities, towns, and villages with gas and water. The Bill provides that \$100,000 may be borrowed for gas or water-works in cities and towns, and \$40,000 in villages. The Bill was read a second time, and referred to the Municipal Committee.

TOLLS ON ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Mr. BAXTER moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the Municipal Act. The section which he proposed to amend allowed municipalities to become lessees of a bridge or road. The present Bill was intended to authorize the municipalities to acquire the right to collect tolls. There was at Dunville a bridge maintained by the Dominion Government, for the use of which tolls were paid. The municipality wished to become the lessees of the bridge, and make it free to the public.

The Bill was read a second time, and referred to the Municipal Committee.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read a second time:—

Mr. Ferris—To incorporate the Toronto Fire Insurance Co.

Mr. Baxter—To authorize the village of Caledonia to issue certain debentures.

Mr. Drury—Respecting the Midland Junction Railway Co.

SUPPLY.

The House, in Committee of Supply, passed the following estimates under the head of Civil Government for salaries and contingencies:—Lieutenant-Governor's Office, \$3,980; Executive and Attorney-General's Office, \$15,630.

Mr. MEREDITH, on the latter item, pointed out that the new Deputy Attorney-General had been appointed at the same salary as Mr. Scott had at the time of his leaving.

Hon. O. MOWAT said he could not get him for less. He knew that the gentleman from his private practice was obtaining more than the salary he was appointed at. There was no man available for the place with the necessary qualifications who could have been got for less money, and he could not do better for the country than had been done.

Department of Education, \$21,000.

Department of Crown Lands, \$48,660.

Regarding the increase of \$3,350 in the latter Department,

Hon. T. B. PARDEE explained that the increase was due to various increases in salary of from \$100 down to \$50: then there were three new appointments of clerks who had been in the office for several years, who had been put on the permanent list.

Mr. MERRICK charged that in taking a vote for contingencies in a lump sum the House had been deceived as to the number of employees. He said a few years ago the Commissioner of Crown Lands had stated

that he had reduced his staff, while at the same time there were officers paid out of contingencies. He asked if there were any other clerks paid in the same manner.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE said the hon. gentleman had not dealt fairly with the House. For the last two or three years he had informed the House of these clerks being in the Service. It was impossible to do the work of a Department such as his without a certain amount of extra clerks. The cases had been mentioned in the House repeatedly, and it was well known that they were in the service of the House. There was no attempt at deception, and no deception. The names were all in the Public Accounts, and to be seen by any. The work of the Department was increasing, as while formerly they could let blocks of land for limits, now they had to be specified by lots, owing to the increase in settlement.

Mr. MEREDITH asked where the Provincial Secretary's Civil Service Bill was.

Hon. A. S. HARDY—He might say as the member from Grey said about railways, "It was still there." About the only point in the Act they did not carry out was that relating to the increases in the salaries. If they had carried out the Act the House would have found that clerks now getting \$800, \$900, and \$1,000 would have been getting the full \$1,400. In that sense they had not been able to carry out the Act as fast as it was intended.

The items were passed.

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| Department of Public Works..... | \$18,130 |
| Treasury Department..... | 17,975 |
| Department of Agriculture..... | 1,300 |
| Secretary and Registrar's Department | 30,650 |

Hon. A. S. HARDY, explaining the increase of \$1,450 in the estimate for Secretary and Registrar's office, said that it was partly caused by the employment of an engrossing clerk, an official who should have been employed long ago. A great many new branches had been undertaken by the Department from year to year, and the amount of work had very largely increased.

The items passed.

Immigration \$1,600.

Mr. ERMATINGER thought that it was a question for Government to consider whether the expenditure for immigration might not cease or be reduced to a nominal figure.

Hon. A. S. HARDY said that the most stringent rules were laid down last year. All the agencies outside of Toronto which had power to give money were closed, and the agents withdrawn except at Hamilton. Even at Toronto the most stringent rules were laid down as to the aid that should be given. The only persons entitled to be sent to various parts of the Province were agricultural labourers and domestic servants, and no assistance was given to these when they were in a position to pay their own expenses—the hon. gentleman could see how small was the amount expended—only \$2,000 or \$3,000 for provisions, and a similar amount for railway expenses. The Department, however, had done a great deal of work

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for immigrants. The staff was employed during the past summer in this way. During that summer the demand for agricultural labourers was very great, more than the Department could supply. The stringency of the rules adopted by the Department would be seen when it was stated that the Dominion immigration agent had sometimes granted passes to persons who had been refused by the Ontario department, although the Dominion Government had refused to undertake this whole work. The working of the Department had been reduced to the minimum, but there must always be a staff for the purpose of settling and finding employment for immigrants on their arrival here.

Mr. MEREDITH said there appeared to him to be very few reasons why the Province should maintain an immigration system. The Dominion Government must always keep up an immigration system, and its agents in England could do all that the agents appointed by Ontario could do.

Hon. A. S. HARDY said that the entire English staff consisted of an agent and one clerk. The expenditure in immigration in 1884 was \$44,000; it was reduced in 1885 to \$19,000, and the estimate was \$18,000, a very small sum. The only money paid for travelling expenses was for distribution for Toronto as a centre.

The item passed.

Public Institutions, \$9,274.

Provincial Board of Health, \$8,400.

Hon. A. M. ROSS, in explaining the increase of \$1,750, stated that \$250 of it was due to the increase of salary to the Secretary. This was needed by the increased time which the Secretary had to give to his duties. There was also an increase in printing, and one of \$1,000 for sanitary investigations and health conferences. The officials of the branch had attained notice outside of the Province, and were often asked to attend conferences.

Mr. MEREDITH pointed out that there