

# Fifth Parliament --- Third Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

TUESDAY, March 2.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

## REPORTS.

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

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) presented the seventh report of the Committee on Private Bills.

## FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read the first time:—

Mr. O'Connor—To incorporate the Ontario Creamery Association.

Mr. O'Connor—To amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Fell—To amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Freeman, by consent of the House—To introduce a Bill to separate certain municipalities in Perth, Huron, and Wellington, and to erect the same into the County of Maitland.

Hon. A. M. Ross—To amend the Act respecting the taxation of patented lands in Algoma.

Hon. A. M. Ross—To consolidate and amend the Agricultural and Arts Act.

Hon. C. F. Fraser—To amend the Municipal Act.

## THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read the third time:—

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

Mr. Badgerow—To incorporate the Georgian Bay & Lake Huron Railway Company.

Mr. Dryden—To amend the Act incorporating the Regular Baptist Missionary Convention of Ontario.

Mr. Ferris—Respecting the Women's Christian Association of Belleville.

Mr. Mulholland—To authorize Walter D. Coate to practise as a chemist.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Hon. A. M. ROSS moved that the House go into Committee, on Thursday, on resolution, That for the more complete examination of the Public Accounts of the Province, and for the reporting thereon to the Legislative Assembly, the Lieutenant-Governor may, under the great seal of the Province, appoint an officer to be called the Auditor-General of the Province, and such officer may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province, at a salary of \$2,400 per annum. Carried.

## THE LICENSE FEES.

The House in Committee on the resolution regarding the liquor license fees.

Hon. A. M. ROSS stated that he wished to make a slight alteration for tavern or shop licenses in towns to be \$60, instead of \$70, and the same in townships \$30 instead of \$40; for druggists' licenses in cities \$75 instead of \$100, in towns \$60 instead of \$80; other municipalities \$30 instead of \$40.

The resolution was reported and referred to the Committee on the Bill respecting liquor licenses.

Hon. A. S. HARDY moved the second reading of the Bill respecting Liquor Licenses. He referred to one or two matters which he had not explained on the first reading. One point was in regard to wine and beer licenses. As the law now stands, the holder of a wine and beer license was entitled to sell beer, ale, and Canadian wine, that is, wine made from Canadian grapes. He proposed to allow them to sell the lighter foreign wines, such as claret. The Bill fixed 20 per cent. as the maximum proportion of alcohol, but it had been decided to leave the percentage as it was before, namely, 15 per cent.; as the fees were left at a moderate figure, it was supposed that this would be an inducement to the taking out of wine and beer licenses. Another clause imposed a penalty on an hotelkeeper where a person other than a servant or employee was admitted within the bar-room within prohibited hours. It had been suggested to him that this might perhaps work hardships where a barkeeper, without the knowledge or consent of the hotelkeeper, admits persons within the bar-room within prohibited hours. The whole license law was framed upon the assumption that the landlord is liable for the acts of his servants, and therefore the Bill was introducing no principle. In 1881, however, a provision was inscribed, making what was called the "actual offender" liable; that is, the barkeeper or the person who broke the law, and leaving it to the option of the prosecutor to take one or the other; and providing that where it appeared that the act was done without the knowledge or consent of the hotelkeeper, the actual offender might himself be compelled

to pay the penalty. He proposed to make that provision apply to the clause in question. In this way the offender would be held to a more strict and at the same time more equitable accountability.

Mr. MEREDITH would like to know how far the wine and beer licenses had been taken advantage of?

Hon. A. S. HARDY—About twenty-five.

Mr. MEREDITH—Out of how many?

Hon. A. S. HARDY—About four thousand.

## RAINY RIVER LANDS.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE, in moving the second reading of the Bill for free grants and homesteads to actual settlers in the district of Rainy River, said the extent of the country was pretty large, including, as he thought, about 12,000,000 acres of land. It extends from the eastern end of Hunter's Island westerly to the boundary of the Province. There are some good tracts of land in the district, it is said, especially on the banks of the Rainy River. Taking it at its lowest estimate, it will be 80 miles long by 5 miles wide, making about 256,000 acres, which is said to be good land. There are in the district 126 settlers, who have made more or less improvements on the lands. The lands have been partially surveyed, along the river in narrow lots and in the rear in townships. It is proposed to continue the survey. The Bill further proposes to give to each head of family settling there

### 160 ACRES OF LAND

free and sell him eighty acres more at \$1 an acre; young men not heads of families will receive eighty acres free, and be permitted to purchase eighty acres at \$1 an acre, the purchase money in each case to be payable in three equal annual instalments. The Bill provides that the Commissioner of Crown Lands may issue patents to settlers at the end of three years; and further, that to those settlers who have now been some time in the country, he may issue patents before the expiration of that time. It is felt that it is only reasonable to allow those who have gone in first and been there for some years, to receive their patents without waiting three years more. One of the difficulties incident to the country, is that of getting into it in the winter time. There is a project for building a railway from the nearest point on the Canadian Pacific to Fort Francis, and then here is the question of a colonization road. It is expensive to build railways, though a charter has been granted for that purpose, and already some provision was made by way of a colonization road. In the summer season the people use boats. This year it is proposed to take a grant for continuing the Colonization road. Hon. gentlemen will notice that the Bill states that it shall be brought into effect by proclamation. We are desirous of getting all the matters settled, and it is hoped that the dispute with respect to the land will be set at rest at an early day. I hope that something will be done by which all the matters now in dispute there will be settled. So far as my opinion is concerned I think that all the land within the boundary confirmed to Ontario belongs to the Province, but this opinion is not held by all.

Mr. MEREDITH—What surveys are these mentioned?

Hon. T. B. PARDEE—They were made in 1874 by the Dominion Government.

Mr. MORRIS suggested that the area of good land was less than the amount which had been stated, and that the country could not support a railway. His opinion was that the land was owned by the Province, and that some other means should have been taken to decide the ownership of the land.

Hon. C. MOWAT—What other means could be taken? We have taken the ground that it should be left to the Privy Council, but we could not get this assented to, and there was no other recourse than by a suit.

Mr. CONMEE—The hon. member for East Toronto has stated that the good lands along the Rainy River are only a narrow belt, then a swamp, and back of that a rocky country. I differ from him entirely. He states that his means of information are good, but I wish to inform him they are wrong—entirely wrong. There is a large belt of good land lying along the Rainy River, and far more extensive even than the Commissioner for Crown Lands stated. I do not say this from hearsay information; I have explored them. I say lying from 25 to 75 miles back there are not merely three or four hundred thousand acres of good land but three or four millions. (Applause.) And with regard to the quantity of land not being sufficient to support a railway, I differ from him. There is no part of America better calculated to support the traffic of a railway and pay expenses than this. Besides being good land it is particularly

### RICH IN MINERALS,

and many mining enterprises are now going on there. The country contains a vast amount of timber. If we take the timber of that country and the territory tributary to it