

# Fifth Parliament --- Third Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

WEDNESDAY, March 17.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

## FIRST READING.

Mr. GRAHAM moved the first reading of a Bill to amend the Real Property Limitation Act.

## RESTORED.

Mr. GILLIES moved that his Bill 146 be restored to the order paper. Carried.

## REPORT.

Hon. A. S. HARDY presented the report of the Committee on the Bill respecting covenants contained in short forms of leases, and other Bills.

## THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read the third time:—

Hon. A. M. Ross—To amend the Act respecting the Agricultural College.

Mr. Ferris—Respecting a certain agreement between the City of Brantford and the Grand Trunk Railway Company.

Mr. Brereton—Respecting the debt of Port Hope.

## ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved that the order for the third reading of the Bill respecting the estates of deceased persons be discharged, and the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider an amendment. Carried.

The Bill as amended was passed.

## SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of Supply. Colonization Roads, \$129,950.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE explained that there was an over expenditure on this item of \$18,535.

Mr. WOOD said that there had been a great improvement in the service in his county (Hastings), and that the service last year and the roads made this year were really in the public interest.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE said that the work of selecting the roads was one of very great difficulty, and all that the Government could do was to instruct their officials to make the best possible road, benefitting the greatest number of settlers. Of course some people had to be disappointed, and the Government could not avoid making some enemies in that way.

Mr. MEREDITH said he did not object to a reasonable expenditure in the interest of the settlers, but he did object to hon. gentlemen making use of public money, without a vote of the House, in the interests of their candidates at elections.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE said that the present Government, in a period of about 15 years, had spent \$1,400,000, and during all that period their over-expenditures averaged only \$7,000 a year. It was impossible always to tell the exact amount that would be required for the building of a road, and common sense demanded that when a work was begun it should be completed speedily; because, if only part of a road were constructed, the use of that part would be lost for the season. Hon. gentlemen complained that a large expenditure was made during election times, but they would find that the reports of the Commissioner substantially agreed with the estimates. But circumstances would arise, whether in election years or any other, which made over-expenditure inevitable. The hon. member for Peterboro' once thought it was not necessary to give any details at all. During the Administration of Sandfield Macdonald a vote of \$50,000 for colonization roads had been proposed and hon. gentlemen had voted against a resolution asking for the details of the estimate. The hon. gentlemen would find that just previous to elections Dominion public buildings required a great deal of repairing, and that there was great activity in building just about that time. Before the election of 1882 votes were taken for a postoffice and Custom house at Brockville \$20,000, for buildings at Belleville \$20,000, Hamilton \$40,000, Chatham \$20,000, and other places; also large votes for improvements on harbours at many places. The hon. gentlemen would find here a large field for enquiry. The Department of Crown Lands was willing to take the responsibility for the expenditure necessary to complete roads once begun, and they had always followed the policy of completing the construction of the roads speedily.

Mr. CONMEE said he was very much surprised to hear the member for London taking exception to the amount of money spent in Algoma during the election. If he was rightly informed the hon. member for Lon-