

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Sixth Parliament --- First Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

TUESDAY, March 15.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD presented the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th reports of the Committee on Standing Orders. The reports were adopted.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE presented the first report of the Committee on Railways, which was adopted.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) presented the second report of the Committee on Private Bills, which was adopted.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:—

To further extend the powers of the Consumers' Gas Co.—Mr. Widdifield.

To separate certain municipalities from the counties of Wellington, Perth and Huron, and to erect the same into the County of Lansdowne.—Mr. Leys.

To consolidate the floating debt of the town of Trenton.—Mr. Ostrom.

To amend the Act incorporating the Queen City Fire Insurance Co.—Mr. Smith.

Respecting the City of Ottawa.—Mr. Bronson.

To amend the Consolidated Municipal Act.—Mr. Ingram.

To amend the Consolidated Municipal Act—Mr. Gibson.

Respecting a certain railway debenture debt of the Township of Eldon—Mr. Cruess.

To unite Toronto Baptist College and Woodstock College under the title of McMaster University—Mr. Harcourt.

To amend the Act incorporating the London & South Eastern Railway Company—Mr. Meredith.

NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

Hon. O. MOWAT introduced a Bill respecting the Niagara Falls Park. The Bill was read the first time.

RETURNS.

Hon. A. S. HARDY presented the report of the Ontario Agricultural College, and also the second volume of the draft of the Revised Statutes of 1887.

THE REVISED STATUTES OF 1887.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill respecting the Revised Statutes of 1887. He proposed that upon the second reading being taken the Bill should be referred to a committee, together with the two volumes of the Revised Statutes; in order that they might see and, if they thought fit, sanction, the changes which the Commissioners had made. The Commissioners had referred to these changes in their report, and had prepared a schedule of them.

The Bill was read a second time.

Hon. O. MOWAT then moved that the Bill be referred to a committee consisting of the lawyers of the House and certain other members.

The names of other members suggested by Mr. Meredith were added, and the following committee was appointed:—Messrs. Evanturel, Fraser, French, Gibson (Hamilton), Guthrie, Hardy, Leys, McAndrew, Meredith, O'Connor, Pardee, Clarke (Wellington), Balfour, Dryden, Drury, McLaughlin, Waters, Ostrom, Creighton, Wood (Hastings), Clancy, H. E. Clarke and Ingram.

THE BUDGET.

Hon. A. M. ROSS, on rising to move the House in Committee of Supply, was received with applause. He said:—In moving that the House go into Committee of Supply it is expected, according to the custom, that I should make some statement as to the financial operations of the past year and the present position of the Province. With the Public Accounts of receipts and expenditure in the hands of the members, with the items of our proposed expenditure of 1887 set forth explicitly in the Estimates in the possession of the House, any member who has taken the trouble to examine these will no doubt be almost as fully acquainted with the financial operations as myself. And, unless for the information of the general public, I suppose any extended or detailed reference to these operations is almost unnecessary. In Ontario, where our receipts and expenditure have settled into well defined and established lines, where the details are but records of the gradual increase of expenditure that must of necessity accompany our development and increase of population, where every phase of the Public Accounts and the financial transactions of the past years have been discussed in former statements, and where comparisons with former years have become stale and unprofitable, the annual statement we are able to present must to a certain extent be of a stereotyped character and dry and uninteresting. Nor do I forget that we are fresh from an election in which the finances of the Province were discussed from every point of view and on every platform, and that for this reason any lengthened reference to this subject will be almost inexcusable. I think I will best meet the wishes of the House by confining myself to

A SIMPLE BUSINESS STATEMENT

of the transactions of the past year, with such references as may be necessary for their elucidation. First, I may place before the House the receipts of the past year, giving such explanations of the items as may seem to be required. As these statements are in the hands of hon. members and of the press, some references may be omitted in order to save time. First, our subsidy is the same as for the last two years and the same as the estimate, \$1,196,872 80. The interest upon capital held and upon debts due by the Dominion to Ontario is, as before, \$279,111 10. The amount of interest on investments received last year was \$55,893 65. We only estimated \$40,000. The Crown Lands receipts were \$814,813 28. We only estimated last year \$700,000, but I am happy to say that the Commissioner has collected and paid into the treasury the larger amount, the excess being \$114,813 28. Of the receipts \$147,471 is balance of the amounts due in 1885, leaving \$667,342 as ordinary receipts. These receipts have been swelled partly by the improvement in the lumber trade in the past year, and I am glad to say that that industry is showing signs of improvement. Then the taxes from Algoma were \$13,143 40. Our estimate was only \$4,000, but at the time the estimate was