

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Sixth Parliament --- First Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

WEDNESDAY, March 16.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) presented a report of the Private Bills Committee.

FIRST READINGS.

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

To amend Chapter 161 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario respecting Mutual Fire Insurance companies.—Mr. Macmahon.

To amend the Act respecting the Village of Huntsville.—Mr. Marter.

SCHOOLS IN PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL.

Mr. EVANTUREL moved for an order of the House for copies of all correspondence, papers, and reports, between the Department of Education and William S. Summerby and O. Dufort, inspectors of Public schools, in the united Counties of Prescott and Russell during the last year, on the subject of Public schools in the French settlements of these counties. Also, copies of all reports respecting the alleged difficulties between the English and French ratepayers of the Town of L'Orignal, or, upon the propriety of establishing a Separate school for Protestant children in that town. Carried.

REGIOPOLIS COLLEGE.

Mr. MEREDITH moved for an order of the House for a return showing the agreement entered into between the Province and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Kingston for the use of the building known as Regiopolis College. The amount expended for repairs and improvements made at the expense of the Province upon the building.

He said it seemed to him that in an agreement of this kind, involving considerable expenditure on capital account, the Government should not have made it binding upon the Province until the House had authorised it.

Hon. Mr. HARDY said the question raised was not necessarily involved in the motion. Last session it was explained how the lease

was made. The Government found itself in straits to accommodate lunatics, many of whom were then in the gaols. The building was exceedingly suitable. The lease would be brought down, and any other information desired.

Mr. MEREDITH asked for an explanation of an item of \$1,500 paid to M. C. Loftus in connection with this matter.

Hon. Mr. HARDY explained that there was a garden and orchard which formed part of the property, which was occupied by Mr. Loftus. This sum was paid to him as part of the agreement on his yielding possession.

The motion was carried.

DISTRESS FOR RENT.

On the motion for the second reading of Mr. O'Connor's bill abolishing distress for rent,

Hon. O. MOWAT said it was extremely likely that the Government would have a bill on the subject, and he would like the present bill to stand until the Government introduced a bill or made some other announcement on the subject.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Mr. CLARKE (Wellington) moved the third reading of a bill to amend the Municipal Act. He said that the object of the bill was not to introduce any new principle, but to extend a principle which had been affirmed as long ago as Confederation. Reeves were now ex-officio justices of the peace—the object of the bill was to make all county councillors justices of the peace. There was a notion abroad that there were too many justices already. But a close examination of the list showed that many of those who were appointed never assumed office, that many did not qualify, and that practically there was

REALLY A DEARTH

of justices of the peace. This was not a desirable state of things. His experience was that the average councillor was equal to the average reeve, and that the average reeve was equal to the ordinary J. P.

Hon. O. MOWAT said that he had a very strong opinion against the bill. It would add at once to the magistracy four thousand persons.

Mr. CLARKE—Twenty-five hundred.

Hon. O. MOWAT said it was very seldom indeed that a man was a good magistrate until he had had experience, and it was hardly possible for that experience to be gained during the one or two years' term of a councillor. Then a man who was very well qualified as a councillor might not be qualified to act as a J. P. He was surprised to hear the statement that there was a dearth of magistrates. He had always heard from the opposite side of the House that there was

A SUPERABUNDANCE OF MAGISTRATES.

(Hear, hear.) He had never in a single instance refused to appoint, where a magistrate was really required.

Mr. MEREDITH—And a good Grit. (Laughter.)

Hon. O. MOWAT said that was an additional qualification. (Laughter.) He had always found that Grits made the best officials of every kind—the best Ministers of the Crown. (Laughter.) But he was always ready to appoint good Conservatives likewise—because there were

SOME GOOD CONSERVATIVES.

(Laughter.) He had great confidence in the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Clarke), and if he said that more justices were required in his riding he would appoint them. His experience was that Reeves and deputy-Reeves did not like to act as magistrates, and he was sure