

## MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. NAIRN presented a bill to amend the Municipal Act, which was read the first time.

### TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK.

On motion of Mr. GIBSON (Huron), the House went back into committee on the bill authorising the Township of Howick to issue debentures. Certain amendments having been agreed to, the committee rose and reported the bill as amended.

### APPOINTMENTS OF REGISTRARS.

Mr. MONK asked whether there has been a registrar of deeds appointed for the County of Carleton, and, if so, who has been appointed, and when such appointment was made.

Hon. O. MOWAT—We came to the conclusion in December last to appoint Mr. Patrick J. Coffey as registrar of Carleton and Mr. G. W. Badgerow as county attorney of York, and commissions were prepared and completed accordingly and bear date 27th December. Before they were forwarded or the gentlemen referred to informed of their appointments, it was decided to stay any farther action in the matter and the commissions were not forwarded or acted upon in any way. So far as I am aware the fact of their having been prepared was not known by anyone until I now state it here, except by those who have officially something to do with the preparation or authentication of the commissions. Our view to-day is that the appointments contemplated in December

SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

New commissions are accordingly in preparation, and will be forwarded immediately to the gentlemen named in the unused commissions of December. There are some other offices which have been vacant for some time. Two of them are the shrievalties of Wellington and Lincoln. Nothing was done in December to fill these up, and nothing has been done since except to receive the representations of applicants and their friends. Both offices will be filled by appointments to them soon after

THE CLOSE OF THIS SESSION.

Then there is the registrarship of Lennox. When I gave my answer the other day as to the registrarship of Lennox, it had passed from my mind that we had dealt with this office in December in the same way as with the Carleton registrarship, and my attention was not called to the mistake until I sent for the papers, after seeing on the paper the question of the hon. member for Carleton. I therefore take this opportunity of making the correction. A new commission is now being prepared, in respect of the Lennox registrarship, and will without delay be forwarded to

MR. STEPHEN GIBSON,

of Napanee, the gentleman named in the commission of December. I may say of all these offices, that the business has been so conducted by the persons in charge, and that the public have so far suffered no loss or inconvenience from the offices having been left vacant so long. But for this being so the delay would not have been permitted to occur.

### THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.

Mr. CLARKE (Wellington) asked whether the regulation regarding the reading of the Bible in the High and Public schools of the Province, which provides that the portion of Scripture used shall be taken from the selections authorised for that purpose by the Department of Education, is still in force; or whether such readings may be selected by the teacher, under the direction of the trustees, from the authorised version of the Bible.

Hon. G. W. ROSS replied:—The object of the action of the Government was to have the

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Sixth Parliament --- First Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

WEDNESDAY, March 23.

### PETITIONS.

Among the petitions presented were a number from various parts of the Province in favor of instruction being given in the Public schools as to the effect of alcohol upon the human system, also a number from Labor organizations, praying for the abolition of property qualification for Municipal offices, manhood suffrage, and other amendments of existing laws; also many, bearing in all 2,941 names, presented by Mr. Waters, in favor of enfranchising married women who are property owners in municipal elections, and also enfranchising unmarried women and widows who are property owners in elections for members of the Local Legislature.

### GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS.

Hon. Mr. HARDY presented a bill respecting the guardianship of minors which was read the first time.

### DISTRESS FOR RENT.

Hon. Mr. HARDY presented a bill respecting distress for rent and taxes, which was read the first time.

### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Hon. G. W. ROSS presented a bill to amend the Act relating to the Education Department, which was read the first time.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Hon. G. W. ROSS presented a bill to amend the Act relating to the Public schools, which was read the first time.