

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Sixth Parliament --- First Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

TUESDAY, April 10, 1887.

Mr. LEES presented the report of the Toll-Roads Committee, which was ordered to be printed.

## MORNING SESSIONS.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved that hereafter there be morning sessions, commencing at eleven o'clock, and that at 1 p.m. the Speaker leave the chair without the question being put.

## THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read the third time:—

To authorise the Corporation of the City of London to borrow certain moneys for Public school purposes.—Mr. Meredith.

Respecting the guardianship of minors.—Mr. Hardy.

To make further provisions respecting assignments for the benefit of creditors.—The Attorney-General.

To amend the Act incorporating the Home of the Friendless, of Hamilton.—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton.)

To amend the Act incorporating the Girls' Home and Public Nursery, of Toronto.—Mr. Leys.

Further to extend the powers of the Consumers' Gas Company, of Toronto.—Mr. Widdiield.

Respecting the taxation of patented lands in Algoma.—Mr. Ross (Huron.)

## RESPECTING POLICE MAGISTRATES.

Hon Mr. MOWAT moved an amendment to the bill respecting the appointment and proceedings of Police Magistrates, declaring that police magistrates appointed under this Act, shall pay over to the County Treasurer any fees or emoluments received on account of their office, unless the Legislature shall otherwise determine the disposition of the same.

The amendment was carried, and the bill read a third time.

## CONCERNING SCHOOL TAXATION.

Hon. W. ROSS moved an amendment to the Act respecting Public Schools, to the effect that where the Public School and Separate School rates are different, if a tenant defaults, and the owner has to pay, he shall have to pay over the amount that he would originally have had to pay as owner.

The amendment was carried, and the bill read a third time.

## READY FOR THIRD READING.

The following bills were considered in committee and ordered to be read a third time:—

Bill respecting Distress for Rent and Taxes.—Mr. Hardy.

Bill For consolidating and amending the Acts respecting insurance companies.—The Attorney-General.

Bill to extend the operation of the Land Titles Act and otherwise amend the same.—The Attorney-General.

## THE SHRIEVALTY OF YORK.

The House went into committee on the Attorney-General's bill for further improving the law.

Mr. MOWAT moved the amendment of the Act respecting the office of Sheriff by the insertion of the following clause:—

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, in manner aforesaid, at any time hereafter and from time to time appoint one fit and proper person to be Sheriff of the County of York, and another fit and proper person to be Sheriff of the City of Toronto, every such Sheriff to hold office during pleasure.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the passage of the clause. He considered that the time had now come when the emoluments of so rich an office as the shrievalty of the County of York should be diverted to the public treasury. The House, he said, had already adopted the principle with regard to Division Courts, that where the fees derived in any office reach a sum furnishing adequate remuneration to the official, the remainder of such fees, &c, should go to the County or Provincial treasury. Instead, therefore, of the Hon. Attorney-General taking the step he proposed and making use of the public moneys to reward his political followers or friends, he (the hon. speaker) thought the hon. gentleman should take a step in the opposite direction and provide that the moneys appertaining to the office should return to the County or Provincial funds.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. leader of the Opposition knew, notwithstanding his observations, that except in the case of the shrievalty in question, there was no shrievalty in the Province which could be said to be too well paid, and he thought the House ought scarcely to be asked to make an exception to the existing law because of this one case. As it would be seen, he had taken some steps with a view to reducing the fees connected with the office.

Mr. MEREDITH asked why the matter of sheriff's fees and emoluments could not be arranged similarly to those of County Court clerks. He said the hon. Attorney-General's only object in taking this step was with a view to serving his political friends.

Hon. Mr. HARDY said his hon. friend the leader of the Opposition broke out now and then into statements that were not discreditable to him, but it was always in one direction and in one line. The hon. member for London had been leader of the Opposition, for he

DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY YEARS,

and if there had been overpayment in this shrievalty office, how was it that he had not until the present moment suggested the diversion of the excess of moneys to the public treasury. Perhaps it was because until the other day the office had been held by a Conservative, and the suggestion was made now as to the diversion of the emoluments of the office because the leader of the Opposition possibly feared that the office was now about to be filled by a member of the Reform party. The hon. gentleman always had a big supply of indignation on hand—at least not indignation perhaps so much as super-vigilance. (Laughter.) The matter of the emoluments attaching to the shrievalty of York County had been a subject of conversation in the House, as Mr. Meredith had said, but it was generally considered that while those emoluments were very large, yet the responsibilities of a sheriff having control in a county like York and a city like Toronto were enormous, and if the office was held by a person liable to make a blunder he might ruin himself in four-and-twenty hours. The position was unlike that of a sheriff in any other county. His duties were numerous, his constant attendance was necessary, and his social duties were very large. The county was very extensive and should have been divided before this.

Mr. CREIGHTON said Mr. Hardy had misrepresented the leader of the Opposition. He had made the matter simply one of principle.