

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Sixth Parliament --- First Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

WEDNESDAY, April 20.

The Speaker took the chair at 11.15 a.m.

## THE FACTORIES ACT.

Hon. C. F. FRASER moved the third reading of the bill to amend the Factories Act.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE asked whether the Minister had received from any labor organizations in Toronto protests against the passage of the amendment.

Hon. C. F. FRASER said he had not. There was a representation of a general character received from a labor organization in a western town.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE said that he had gathered from some conversations with workingmen that there was a very bitter opposition on the part of the labor organizations in Toronto to the bill, and that they wished to make some representations to the Government. He did not himself see clearly on what ground they were so strongly opposed to it.

The order was allowed to stand.

## VILLAGE OF TILBURY CENTRE.

House in committee on Mr. Balfour's bill to incorporate the Village of Tilbury Centre.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the clause providing that the License Commissioners may grant as many tavern licenses in the said corporation for the ensuing license year as there are in the said village at the time of the passing of the Act, namely, four. He thought that the object sought to be obtained by the clause was not unreasonable, namely, that as the licenses were issued in May they should be continued for another year. He objected, however, to introducing such a provision into a private bill, and he suggested that the same object might be attained by providing that the Act should not come into force until May 15th.

Hon. O. MOWAT said that the circumstances were quite exceptional and might never arise again. There was no danger of a precedent being established.

The section passed and the bill was reported.

## McMASTER UNIVERSITY.

The House went into committee on Mr. Harcourt's bill to unite Toronto Baptist College and Woodstock College.

On motion of Mr. HARCOURT a clause was added providing that the course of study prescribed for matriculation and for degrees should be as thorough and comprehensive as in the University of Toronto.

Mr. MEREDITH asked what the promoter of the bill had to say to the argument of the member for Hamilton, namely, that it was possible for an unduly large part of the endowment to be applied to the academic department, leaving the arts department insufficiently provided for.

Mr. HARCOURT pointed to the provision that five professorships shall be adequately provided for.

Mr. CRAIG asked what was the value placed on the buildings.

Mr. HARCOURT said it was \$175,000.

Mr. CRAIG said that the salaries paid in the two colleges at present were at least \$17,000, which would represent five per cent. on \$340,000. This sum and the cost of the buildings would leave very little of the \$600,000.

Hon. G. W. ROSS pointed out that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council would have full control over the matter. He moved that the amount of the endowment

BE INCREASED TO \$700,000, stating that he did so with the hearty concurrence of the promoters of the bill. The amendment was made.

Mr. M'LAUGHLIN suggested that a certain amount of the endowment, say \$250,000, should be definitely set apart for university purposes.

Mr. HARCOURT strongly opposed the proposal, on the ground that the University should not be subjected to unusual conditions. Messrs. Hardy, Meredith, and Chamberlain also opposed the proposal. No amendment was offered, and the matter dropped.

The bill was then reported.

## LONDON HOSPITAL.

Mr. Meredith's bill respecting the General Hospital of the City of London was read a second time and considered in committee.

## CONVICT LABOR.

Hon. Mr. HARDY moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this House it is inexpedient that the labor of convicts confined in the Central Prison shall, after the expiration of existing contracts in that behalf, be let out upon hire to any corporation, firm, or private person." He pointed out that all legislation recently enacted on this subject in the United States, so far as he could learn, had been of an experimental character. Labor organisations had complained that the employment of prisoners caused an unfair competition with free labor, and there was enough of force in it to demand that some change should be made. The Ontario Government at the present time had contracts with two employers, the Nelson's and the Brandon Company, the Nelson employed 72 persons, of whom only 48 were actually engaged in making brooms, the other 24 being old men and boys

who were engaged in the minor processes. The Brandon Company employed 98 men in manufacturing various kinds of woodenware. The amount received by the prison from these two firms in 1885 was \$16,701, and in 1886 was \$19,860. Then there were some minor industries not carried on under the contract system. They received from the brickyard in 1885 \$12,549, and in 1886 was \$5,605; from the tailorshop \$6,700 in 1885 and \$4,648, and in the shoeshop \$7,000 in 1885 and \$3,082 in 1886. He explained several systems adopted in various prisons for employing the prisoners, including the piece-price system and the State-account system. Under the latter system the goods were manufactured by the prison authorities, and sent to agents of the Government for sale. As the contracts did not expire until 1889 there would be ample time for the Government to make inquiries about the matter, and they hoped to be able, when the contracts expired, to submit such a scheme as would be in the best interests of all concerned.

It being one o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. INGRAM complained that the Nelsons undersold other broom-makers.

Mr. GIBSON (Huron) opposed the resolution. He said that if the labor organisations had their way there was nothing to do but either put the prisoners to a tread-mill or cut off their heads.