

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## Sixth Parliament, Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

February 1, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

### LAW RESPECTING MORTGAGES.

Mr. FRENCH presented a bill to amend the law respecting mortgages, explaining that it was intended not to change the law, but merely to declare its meaning in respect of the payment of interest on mortgages in certain cases. The bill was read the first time.

### ROAD COMPANIES.

Mr. LEES (Lanark) presented a bill to amend the General Road Companies Act. The bill was read the first time.

### EXAMINATION OF ENGINEERS.

Mr. GARSON presented a bill respecting the examination of engineers and the inspection of boilers. The bill was read the first time.

### HOTEL FIRES.

Mr. McKAY presented a bill for the prevention of accident by fire in hotels and other public buildings. The bill was read the first time.

### WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Mr. WATERS presented a bill to authorise unmarried women and widows to vote for members of the Legislature. (Loud cheers and laughter.) The bill was read the first time.

### OTHER FIRST READINGS.

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

By Mr. Nairn—Respecting conditional sales of chattels.

By Mr. Waters—To amend the Municipal Act.

Also to amend the Assessment Act.

Also to amend the Ditches and Water Courses Act so as to make it applicable to waterways in the lands and under the roadbeds of railway companies.

By Mr. French—To authorise the appointment of fire guardians for the prevention of bush fires.

The House adjourned at 4.30 o'clock.

### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—On Friday next—Order of the House for a return, furnishing (a) copy of description of that portion of the Queen's Park appropriated for the purpose of the new Parliament buildings; (b) copy of all correspondence between the Government and the authorities of the University of Toronto regarding compensation for such land; (c) copy of all valuations of such lands.

Mr. Clarke (Wellington)—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Balfour—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Garson—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. French—Order of the House for a return from each registrar of deeds in the Province showing the number of instruments registered against lands which purport to have been made for the purpose of procuring credit, on the sale of goods or whereby a purchase of goods merely represents that he owns certain lands.

... a bill to amend the Watercourses Act. The Speaker, the Clerk and the House recognised an old friend and extended the orthodox official and sympathetic welcome. Mr. Waters rose yet again, and with grave and reverent demeanor presented the only one that was left of all the family, a bill to allow widows and unmarried women to vote for members of the Legislature; and the Speaker and Clerk received it with evident emotion and the House with unusual demonstrations of enthusiasm and attachment. It was not expected so soon. It is likely to make more friends than ever before. It is understood Mr. Waters has an army of petitions at the back of this bill, and that a very vigorous effort will be made to have it accepted as a companion piece to manhood suffrage.

**A NEW FIELD:**—The Young Men's Christian Association have addressed special circulars to each of the members of the House. There are worse fields for missionary effort. Who shall say but that the members may become so liberalised and evangelised as to be willing to admit the public to prayers.

**FIRE ESCAPE:**—Dr. McKay, of South Oxford, has made some material changes in his bill relating to fires in hotels and other public buildings. He proposes that all such buildings over two storeys in height shall have permanent outside stairways of iron, with hand-rails on either side and shall be able to sustain at one time the weight of at least six full-grown persons. He also proposes that the escape to be kept in each room shall be but a single strand of rope three-quarters of an inch in thickness. The doctor has had extensive correspondence on the subject and has witnessed many tests, and he has convinced himself that few of the fancy escape ladders are of much practical use. He has information from New York State where a bill similar to that he is promoting is in operation, and he has telling statistics as to the necessity for legislation in the direction he desired to go, and he will, no doubt, be able to make out a strong case in support of his measure. At least he deserves praise for an industrious effort to stay the slaughter by fires in public buildings, and it is quite likely he will secure the enactment of some practical measure of preventative legislation.

**THE NEW MINISTER:**—The impression grows that Mr. Drury, of East Simcoe, will be the new Minister of Agriculture.

**THE FARMERS:**—The organisation of the farmers of the House, which did good work in watching legislation in the interests of the agricultural community, will continue during the present session, assuming the form of a regular association. A meeting was held yesterday morning, with Mr. Drury, the chairman of last year, presiding. There was a large attendance, and though the proceedings were brief and of the character incident to the preliminaries of organisation, there was every indication that the new institution would be well supported. Mr. Drury was unanimously re-elected chairman and Mr. Awrey, secretary. A committee consisting of Messrs. Fell, Sprague, Cruess and Graham, with the chairman and secretary, was appointed to draft a constitution. The next meeting will be held at the call of the chair.

**THE BONUS MUST GO:**—Mr. Balfour, whose measures generally fill the historical long-felt want, will introduce a bill to repeal the clauses of the Municipal Act which enable municipalities to bonus manufactories. The system of granting bonus has been very liberally abused by moneyless speculators and mere subsidy-hunters, and there are a good many municipalities that would be money in pocket if the bonus system had never been born. There is a good deal to be said in favor of the view that every industry should stand on its own bottom.

**JUG THE BUG:**—Mr. French, an industrious legislator, introduced a bill respecting the appointment of fire guardians. Hon. C. F.

Fraser asked, "What about fire bugs?" If Mr. French had retorted with the thought in his mind he would probably have said, "Repeal the Scott Act."

**A STARTLED OPPOSITION:**—The Opposition are a good deal elated over Mr. Whitney's victory in Dundas.

They are not used to that kind of thing.

They are much better used to the East Northumberland experience of yesterday.

There was little hope, however, that Dr. Chamberlain would hold Dundas. He is a magnificent campaigner, and was a good representative, but Dundas has been Tory from its cradle, and it was only by the wonderful impulse of victory that was with the Government at the last election that it was lost to the Conservatives.

Besides in the contest which has just closed all the influence of the Dominion Government was used against the Liberal candidate, and in a way which must have attracted not a few votes to the standard of his successful opponent.

**COMMITTEES ORGANISED:**—The standing committees of the House have reorganised, with the exception of the Public Accounts Committee, and have appointed chairmen as follows:—Printing, Mr. Balfour; Privileges and Elections, Mr. Harcourt; Municipal Committee, Hon. A. S. Hardy; Railways, Hon. C. F. Fraser; Standing Orders, Dr. Widdifield; Private Bills, Mr. Gibson, of Hamilton. Mr. Fraser takes the place of Mr. Pardee as head of the Committee on Railways. No doubt Col. Clarke will retain the chairmanship of the Committee on Public Accounts.

**TOLL ROADS:**—The bill introduced by Mr. Lees, of South Lanark, to amend the General Road Companies Act is, at the least, a brave attempt to grapple with the toll gate nuisance. Session after session motions have been introduced and wearing discussions had on the subject, but it seemed impossible to reach a basis of legislation. However, the opponents of toll roads, and especially Mr. Lees and Mr. Balfour, have renewed the struggle year after year, and at last there seems reason to hope that a solution of the difficulty is about to be reached.

Mr. Lees' bill proposes that on petition of one hundred interested ratepayers the County Council shall appoint an arbitrator to act with the County Judge and a person appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council who shall not be a resident of the county; and that these shall form a Board of Arbitration who shall determine what municipalities or portions of municipalities would be benefited by the removal of tolls on any certain roads, and shall make an award to the County Council fixing the amounts to be borne by the several municipalities to be so benefited.

Against this award there will be an appeal to the High Court of Justice.

Should a Council and road company be unable to agree, the value of the road may be determined by arbitration under the Municipal Act within six months from the date of the award of the arbitrators.

In estimating the value of the franchise of a road company the arbitrators are to consider the dividends paid for the six years prior to the Act going into effect, but no road company that has been in existence for more than twenty-one years shall be obliged to take less than the par value of its stock unless the dividends for the previous six years were less than six per cent.

The County Council may pass a by-law for the borrowing of the money necessary for the extension of the tolls within its borders, and may issue debentures therefore at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent., and it shall not be necessary to submit this by-law to popular vote.

No municipality after the 31st of December following the passing of the Act may collect tolls on any road owned by it, and any municipality having a debt incurred in purchase of a tollroad may determine under the provisions of the Act what proportion of the amount shall be borne by the respective municipalities.

It is also provided that the Treasurer of the Province may advance out of the public money the sums to be expended in the purchase of tollroads, and may purchase the debentures to be issued by the County Councils, and may provide the necessary funds by granting terminal annuities not exceeding 30 years and based on a rate of interest not exceeding five per cent.

With this bill as a starting point, it will argue a want of courage and an indifference to the true magnitude of the grievance if the Assembly adjourns without legislating the tollgate nuisance out of the Province.