

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Sixth Parliament, Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

February 3, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

WINGHAM DEBENTURE DEBT.

Hon. A. M. ROSS presented a bill to consolidate the debenture debt of the Town of Wingham.

DIVISION COURTS ACT.

Mr. GIBSON presented a bill to amend the Division Courts Act, which was read the first time.

MUNICIPAL ACT.

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

The House adjourned at 3.30 o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Smith—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Leys (Toronto)—Bill for the better protection of insectivorous and other birds.

The Attorney-General—Bill respecting the Manitoulin Island.

Mr. Phelps—Bill to amend R. S. O. cap. 72, respecting Police Magistrates.

Mr. Nairn—Bill to amend the Assessment Act. Bill to amend the Ditches and Water Courses Act.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—Bill to amend the Act respecting short forms of Mortgages.

Mr. Balfour—Bill. A Homestead Exemption Act.

Mr. Dack—Bill to amend Municipal Act.

Mr. Meredith—Return of all commissions of inquiry issued during the years 1886 and 1887; the subjects of the inquiry in each case; the names of the commissioners, their salary or other remuneration, and a statement of the expenses of each such inquiry, and showing whether the commissioners or any of them held any, and if so which, office of employment in the public service of the Province.

Mr. Meredith—Address for copies of all Orders in Council or other regulations with regard to the timber dues passed since the 1st January, 1886.

Mr. Cruess—Inquiry of the Ministry—Whether they intend to place in the estimates a sum of money to purchase grass seed for distribution or otherwise for the purpose of seeding the burnt lands in the Northern townships.

ASSEMBLY NOTES.

YORK AND TORONTO BURDEN:—A sort of divided against itself was the deputation of York County and Toronto representatives that waited upon the Attorney-General yesterday afternoon. The extra cost thrown upon the city and the county by the trial of legal cases from outside places is felt as a grievance by certain of the representatives of the people in the county and possibly of the city. The attention of the Aldermen was attracted to the matter by members of the County Council, and a deputation was formed hurriedly for the purpose of discussing the matter with the Government. From the county were ex-Wardens Johnson, Richardson and Saunders, and from the city Ald. John McMillan, chairman of the Executive Committee; Carlyle (St. Thomas'), Carlyle (St. Andrew's), Macdougall and Galbraith. They were introduced by Mr. Smith, of East York. Mr. Jackson was the principal speaker. He urged very strongly the injustice of making the city and county bear the expense of so many extra cases from outside. He suggested either that some system of check and mutual compensation among the counties should be adopted, or that the Government should grant York and Toronto an extra sum for the administration of justice. Mr. Mowat thought that the system suggested could hardly be carried in the House or made satisfactory in operation if adopted. As to an additional grant, he thought it would be unjust to add that to the burdens of the whole Province. The city manifestly benefited, as every county town benefited, by the holding of the courts of law within their bounds. It might be that the city got more benefit than the county in proportion to the share of the

cost it paid, and suggested that that was a matter to be brought up at the next arbitration between city and county. Ald. McMillan, speaking on behalf of the city, said the Aldermen present had had the matter brought to their attention only about an hour before. They did not wish either to support or oppose Mr. Jackson's propositions. However, the city had borne seven-tenths of the charge referred to—about \$4,000—and it had never been suggested as a special grievance. In the meantime they would ask the Government in its wisdom not to do anything to prevent people coming to Toronto. The way to the city was easy from all over the Province and the citizens were glad to have people come in whether they came on business or pleasure or in search of justice. He suggested that if the Government could induce the county to grant more than \$400,000 for the new Court-house, so as to put up a building worthy of the city, it would be a good thing. "Oh," responded the Attorney-General, "I have no doubt that if you ask them they will give you twice that," a remark which was naturally greeted with laughter. Ald. Macdougall spoke in much the same strain as Ald. McMillan and the deputation withdrew.

FOR AND AGAINST:—Among the petitions presented were:—

One by Mr. Ballantyne, against the proposed incorporation of Tavistock.

One by Mr. Kerns, of Halton, against the detention of the insane in the common gaols.

One by Mr. Miller, from the County Council of Addington, for a reduction in the number of petit jurors.

And one by Mr. Harcourt, from the County Council of Haldimand, for the abolition of the grand jury and reduction of the number of petit jurors.

MAJOR BIGGAR'S CONDITION:—Mr. Dack, of Centre Bruce, has received a letter from Mr. W. S. Johnston, Reeve of Port Elgin, in which the writer says Major Biggar, of North Bruce, is not improving much, and that while there are hopes for his recovery, it is feared he will never be strong again.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS:—Mr. Balfour proposes to introduce a Homestead Exemptions Bill. He would exempt from seizure for any form of indebtedness forty or fifty acres of a farm homestead and perhaps village, town and city lots up to a certain value. In Michigan and in most of the Western States such laws are in operation. Some of the grounds taken in support of such legislation is that it keeps population within the country, operates against the reckless granting of loans and credit, ensures the farmer against total loss of his means of livelihood, and gives his family some fair measure of protection. The discussion on the bill is likely to be one of unusual interest.

THE COMMISSION BUSINESS:—Mr. Meredith will ask for a return of all commissions of inquiry issued during 1886 and 1887; the subject of inquiry in each case; the names of the commissioners and their remuneration, and whether any of the commissioners held offices of employment in the public service of the Province.

FOR TOWNS:—Mr. Dack has a bill to amend the Municipal Act by which he proposes that in towns whose population is under 5,000, the nomination of Mayors, Reeves and Councillors shall all take place at the same hour and at the same place. This will avoid the expense and trouble of engaging rooms and of holding separate nominations for Councillors in each ward. It will also save not a few aspirants for honors in the wards the trouble of hiring electors to be present at the ward nominations. Mr. Dack's bill should be encouraged to become an Act.

NEXT WEEK:—There may be but a short sitting of the House on Monday, but on Tuesday hard fighting and the beginning of night sittings is expected. It is likely the first important debate of the session will be on the resolutions of the Inter-Provincial Conference. The consideration of this matter is likely to occupy three or four days, and possibly longer if Mr. Meredith's party show any strong disposition to push the battle against the Government.

LOBBY GOSSIP:—Mr. Wm. Thompson, city editor of The London Advertiser and a dele-

gate to the Y. M. C. A. Convention, spent a few hours about the House and press gallery.

Mr. Aurele Pacaud, manager of Le Progres, and a brother of the member for North Essex, visited the House during the day.

There are two colored messengers on duty, one from South Essex and one from Kent.

Rev. Father Egan, of Port Colborne, and Mr. W. M. German and Mr. T. F. Brown, of Welland, spent some time in the Chamber after adjournment.

N. P.:—The bill to amend the Division Courts Act introduced by Mr. Gibson, of Hamilton, proposes to abolish the distinction between large and small debts by assimilating the practice of the Division Courts to the procedure under the Judicature Act. Substantially he seeks to abolish imprisonment for debt. It is a new N. P. and an improved N. P.—No Prison for honest debtors. Mr. Gibson has been pushing the measure for some years, and there are very many members of the House that take his view of the subject.

A COLONISATION RAILWAY:—A petition is to be presented to the Assembly for favorable consideration of the Nipissing and James Bay railway project. This is intended to be the extension northward of the Northern Pacific Junction road. It will run wholly through new territory, much of it valuable timber and agricultural country. The length of the road from North Bay to Moose Factory on James Bay, where there is a considerable settlement, is 350 miles, which, it is contemplated, will be built in three sections, namely:—(1) From North Bay to Lake Temiscaming, 81 miles; (2) from this point to Lake Abbittippe, 91 miles; and (3) from this to the mouth of the river at James' Bay, about 178 miles. The cost of construction is estimated at about \$19,000 a mile.

A DEPUTATION comprising Mr. P. R. Randall, Mayor; Mr. S. S. Smith, ex-Mayor; Mr. P. B. Ross, Mr. E. Peplow and Mr. R. C. Smith, of Port Hope, have had an interview with the Attorney-General with reference to the municipal loan fund debt.

ANOTHER RAILWAY PROJECT:—Mr. William Beatty, of Parry Sound, assisted by Mr. Armstrong, member for the district, are working hard in the interests of the Parry Sound Colonisation railway. Their hope is to combine the Parry Sound project with the Grand Trunk system. They want the Grand Trunk line to the Sault to run from Orillia or Gravenhurst, via Parry Sound, to French River, west of the Muskoka Lakes, thence to the Sault. This, they claim, is 25 miles shorter than any other route, and across a country over which a railway can be built as cheaply as in any part of the Province. They argue that it is very decidedly the interest of Toronto and of Ontario, in view of the great volume of traffic to come by the Sault, that the Grand Trunk's line should be built over the short and easy route they advocate.