

February 7-1888

ASSEMBLY NOTES.

MORTGAGES FOR THE MILLION:—Mr. French has called attention to another piece of sharp practice upon the farmers, which in the hands of bad and unscrupulous men becomes about as bad as the seed wheat fraud. In the printed agreements which the purchaser of certain agricultural implements signs appears the following:—

I, John Smith, do hereby certify that I own and have a deed duly registered in my name of 100 acres of land, being west half lot 20, in the 6th concession of Oxbow Township, County of ———, the present cash value of which is not less than \$——, on which there is no incumbrance, and the within indebtedness to the Sharp Manufacturing Company shall be a charge upon the said land until fully paid. This statement is made to the Sharp Manufacturing Company for the purpose of procuring credit from them for the machine mentioned in within order—and the same is delivered by them on due faith thereof, subject to the conditions contained in the within agreement.

There is nothing in particular the matter with such an agreement, if the signer knows what he is doing. But in some cases within Mr. French's knowledge the salesmen have not taken pains to make the matter clear and the purchasers are much surprised to find that they have mortgaged their farms. The motion presented by Mr. French calling for a return of all such instruments in the Province could not well be accepted, for the reason that it would entail no end of expense and would not furnish a more satisfactory basis for legislation than would any certain definite information that sharp practice was being indulged in through the use of such agreements. Mr. French furnished the Attorney-General with the copy of agreement quoted above and an arrangement has been made that Mr. French shall draft a bill which the Premier and himself will consider as a "Committee of the Whole." It is probable that the measure to be introduced will be based upon the principle that any instruments of this kind made for the purpose of procuring credit on the sale of goods shall be binding only for a definite term unless renewed with the consent of both parties.

THE NEW PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS:—In reply to Mr. Meredith, Hon. C. F. Fraser stated that the expenditure on the new Provincial buildings to date was \$160,000. It did not require a vote of the House to extract the information.

MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:—Mr. Wood, of Brant, proposes that municipal representatives seeking re-election shall go to the people on their record. He has a bill which provides that Municipal Councils, on the 15th of December in each year, shall prepare a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures for the year, and of the amount of taxes collected and remaining uncollected, and that the statement shall be published in one or more of the local papers and circulated generally throughout the municipality. There has been for years a strong demand for just such a measure, and no obstacles should be thrown in the way of its passage.

THE NEW MEMBERS:—It is expected that Mr. Richard Clarke, the new member for East Northumberland, will take his seat to-day, but it is said Mr. Whitney, of Dundas, will not arrive until toward the end of the week.

AGAINST PROPERTY QUALIFICATION:—Mr. Garson has introduced his bill to abolish the property qualification for municipal representatives. It will hardly pass. The feeling of the House seems to be that the qualification is low enough, and it is intimated quite freely that the disposition is to increase rather than to reduce. But the Assembly will probably be satisfied with throwing out Mr. Garson's bill.

No. 2:—The Speaker will give his second dinner of the session on Wednesday evening.

CHEESE AND BUTTER:—Mr. Wood, of Hastings, is moving for a select committee to consider and report as to the sufficiency of existing legislation for the formation and carrying on of the operations of companies for the manufacture of cheese and butter, and to consider and report as to the best means to be adopted to secure the delivery by the patrons of such companies of pure and unadulterated milk.

AT HOME:—Mrs. Mowat will hold an at home on Friday evening to which all the members of the House have been invited.

HOW THE FATHERS WORKED:—A reference to the proceedings of the early days of the first Parliament of Upper Canada, the journals of which have lately been copied and placed in the Library, shows that the Ministers were not very speedy in getting to work. Take, for instance, the session which commenced on 25th May, 1802. The first day the Speech was delivered. Present:—Messrs. Nellis, Beasley, McDonell, Mr. Solicitor-General, Mr. Sheriff McDonell. Adjourned for want of a quorum. Second day ditto. Third day ditto. Fourth day ditto. Fifth day, no speeches, but committee appointed to draft an address in reply to the Speech. Sixth day, reply presented. Seventh day, address considered. Eighth day, bills respecting juries, highways, pound-keepers, inspectors of flour, tavern licenses, presented, and the House attended in a body to present the Governor with the reply. Ninth day, Mr. McDonell, of Glengarry, moved, seconded by Mr. Solicitor-General, for leave to bring in on Monday a bill to abolish the public nuisance of suffering swine to run at large within the Town of York. Tenth day—Several petitions were considered, but on the eleventh day the House adjourned for want of a quorum. The total work done during the session, which lasted till July 15, was to pass four bills, viz.—an Act respecting titles, Supply Bill, administration of justice in the district of Newcastle, and to appoint collectors of Customs. It will be noticed the pigs were not prevented from continuing to run at large. The legislators in those days, though no doubt fastidious, did not arrive at a solution of the difficulty, as the bill was ignored.

HON. A. S. HARDY laid on the table a copy of an Order in Council under which it was advised that the fees received by Mr. R. O'Hara, as Local Master of the Supreme Court for Ontario at Chatham, and as Deputy Registrar of the Chancery Division of the High Court, be commuted at \$1,600 per annum from the 1st day of April next and payable monthly, and such sum to be in full of all services as Local Master and Deputy Registrar, including expenses of accommodation and clerical work.

THE PRAYER MONOPOLY:—When Mr. Graham's motion to admit the press representatives to prayers was reached there was a wide and deep smile all over the chamber.

Mr. Graham was absent. Mr. Meredith suggested that probably the Government desired to father the motion. The Premier shook his head and smiled. The Treasurer said it was a question in which the Opposition were most interested. Mr. Meredith shook his head and smiled. Then the House adjourned, and probably some of the members went out and smiled. In the meantime the reporters are not concerned, except for the public who stand at the door and it is not opened, and for the legislators who think the regulation sacred simply because it is old.

MR. EVANTUREL wants a statement of the sums expended during the last five years for colonisation purposes; the counties in which the money was spent; the amount given to each county; the nature of the work performed, and the amount spent since Confederation in the Counties of Prescott, Russell, Glengarry, Stormont and Dundas for similar purposes.

IT IS SAID the Opposition will squarely antagonise only a few of the resolutions of the Inter-Provincial Conference. Mr. Meredith is disposed to accept many of its minor conclusions as touching grievances which ought to be removed, and in respect of which the Federal Government can have no object in opposing the views of the Provinces. But upon the great issues touched by the conference Mr. Meredith will take hostile ground. He will oppose the subsidy scheme adopted by the conference, but it is not thought he will pronounce squarely for the total abolition of grants to the Provinces.

He will oppose the transference of the veto to the Imperial authorities, but he will not demand its total abolition.

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you see his report? A.—Yes, I saw the letter.

C.—Why were you so much concerned about what Mr. Lye had discovered? A.—Nothing special excepting this, that there was a question of appointing Mr. Lye as permanent officer of the estate. He had been investigating for two or three weeks. I thought it was time that we should know whether he had discovered anything, with a view to deciding on the necessity of appointing him as a permanent officer of the estate. I thought that if he had been at work two or three weeks it was time he should have discovered something, if there was anything to be discovered.

Q.—Is this the report? A.—Yes, that is it. Mr. Foster reads:—

TORONTO, January 12th, 1888.

The Liquidators Central Bank:—

GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with verbal instructions received from time to time, I have been engaged in making myself conversant with the affairs of the bank and the methods by which its funds were depleted to such an extent as to necessitate its suspension and liquidation. In the course of my examination I found that the transactions recorded in connection with the accounts of Cox & Co., R. G. L. Burnett, Magnus Davis, A. A. Allen, D. Mitchell Macdonald, C. Blackett Robinson, a joint account of the president and D. M. Macdonald, and some other parties involving an indebtedness to the bank of about \$500,000 have been of such a nature as to make it expedient that my reports thereon should be made to your counsel in the shape of briefs, in order to be privileged when the parties come up for examination and when litigation comes. The very grave situation of the examining accountant in respect to subsequent proceedings causes me to prefer to be away from this affair, and if you desire I shall very gladly give place to another. My desire in this respect is strengthened by the fact that the entries made in the bank books since its suspension to the present time are not in accordance with my ideas of records of an institution in liquidation. There does not exist any proper schedules of the affairs of the "bank in liquidation" at the time of the suspension or at the time of the taking in charge by the interim liquidator or at the time of the taking in charge by the liquidators as now constituted. The entries made in the bank book indicate a solvent bank in operation instead of a bank in liquidation, as they read without written or verbal explanations indicate a system of preferential payments. I have made myself familiar with the general accounts of the head office of the bank. I am now investigating the account of Mr. Chisholm, one of the directors. This I expect to finish to-morrow. I shall then be ready to audit all statements and schedules compiled since your appointment if desired. Respectfully submitted, HENRY LYE.

Q.—Were you satisfied with this report? A.—No.

Q.—You still demanded to know what he had discovered? A.—There was nothing new disclosed in this letter.

Q.—Answer my question.

Mr. Bain—He is answering your question.

Mr. Foster—That's no answer.

Mr. Campbell—What is the question?

Mr. Foster—I knew you did not understand the question. When this report came in did you still demand to know what he had discovered? A.—I said there was nothing in that report—

Q.—Did you still demand to be informed of what he had discovered? A.—Not at all, except that he had given nothing new in the letter.

Q.—Did you? A.—Not in that direction no.

Q.—Did you or did you not? A.—I think not. I only stated that there was nothing new in the statement, that is as far as the accounts were concerned.

Q.—When you read the letter did you withdraw your consent to the appointment of Mr. Lye? A.—Yes.

Q.—After you had made the demand to know what he had discovered? A.—I wrote the letter before I read the report.

Q.—This letter withdrawing your consent to Mr. Lye's permanent appointment, when did you write it? A.—On the morning of the 12th of January.

Q.—After the report came in? A.—I think not. I wrote it in the morning before I saw the report.

Q.—What is the date of Mr. Lye's letter? A.—The 12th also.

Q.—You swear that you wrote the letter asking for the withdrawal of Mr. Lye before you saw Mr. Lye's report? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then you had nothing in Mr. Lye's conduct with which to be dissatisfied? A.—I had enough to satisfy me that he was doing nothing.

Q.—Was that the reason you withdrew your consent to his appointment? A.—Yes.

Q.—Thereupon application was made to the Master? A.—Yes.

Q.—And the Master confirmed the appointment? A.—Yes.

Q.—Now you say in your affidavit that there never was any difference whatever between