

February 8-1888

## ASSEMBLY NOTES.

**PRAYERS AND PRIVILEGES:**—The House will not admit the public until after they have said their prayers.

Mr. Graham did not get a seconder for his motion.

This was not surprising. His motion quite failed to meet the situation. The reporters did not want to be admitted to prayers. It was desired simply to break down the absurd rule that visitors should be excluded from the galleries until after the opening of the House. The reporters and the general public probably do not care any more about the prayers than do the members themselves.

Mr. Mowat thought it would be unwise to pass the motion because sometimes questions of privilege arose that had to be considered in secret. That is just the reason why the public should be admitted. The members of the Assembly are elected to do the public business and to do it in a public way, and they have no right to any privilege against their masters.

Besides, it is doubtful if there has been in half a century a question of privilege that has not been given to the press and the public the moment the doors were opened.

Mr. Meredith properly objected to the motion in the form in which it was presented, but he could see no reason why the public should be kept out except when some question of privilege was to be considered.

The whole matter is of no great importance. The House simply adheres to an absurd custom that has come down from the days of absolutism. The public are slightly inconvenienced; the Assembly plays at dignity on a baby basis.

**MR. BLYTH** is asking for a return of all Orders in Council with respect to the investments of sinking funds of municipalities under the Municipal Act.

**THE COMMISSION BUSINESS:**—Mr. Mowat explained, in answer to Mr. Meredith, that permanent officers of the Government serving upon commissions are simply paid their expenses. This heads off the hunt for a grievance in this direction. It has happened before that Mr. Meredith has gone gunning for extravagance and has bagged economy.

**THE NO BONUS BILL:**—There is a strong feeling in the House in favor of Mr. Balfour's bill to take away from the municipalities the power to grant bonuses for manufactories.

Mr. Balfour is also receiving generous support from the press all over the Province and from many municipal bodies.

The bill may carry. It is felt that the great evil of the system attacked is in the competition of rival towns for mere capital-hunting industries.

Speculative bonus-seekers push the municipalities and the municipalities push one another.

Mr. Balfour's may be the only effective remedy.

Listowel furnishes a good example how the bonusing power may be abused.

The Hess furniture factory there was voted 5,000 not long ago to prevent its removal to Toronto.

Formerly Listowel gave a Liberal majority and the hands in this factory were about equally divided as to political faith.

It is said, however, that now almost every workman is a Conservative and the factory just gives Tory majority enough to swamp the Liberal vote of the riding and to enable Mr. Hess to hold the seat for the Legislature.

The contest for the bonus was conducted on straight political lines. The Conservatives favored and the Liberals opposed. The Liberals of Listowel are taxed \$7,500 to enable North Perth to elect a Tory to the Assembly.

**THE QUEEN VICTORIA, ETC., PARK.**—Mr. Harcourt is asking for information as to the amount paid for land expropriated for Niagara Falls Park purposes; a detailed statement of all moneys expended by the Government other than for the purchase of land; and the names of all parties appointed to any office in connection with the park.

**THE ESTIMATES:**—It is expected the Treasurer will make his financial statement next week.

**A HIGH SCHOOL TROUBLE:**—The Minister of Education was interviewed by a deputation

composed of Mr. Silverwood, chairman of the Oakwood High School Board; Inspector Reazin and Messrs. Cameron, Lownsbrough, King and Rogers. They were introduced by Mr. Cruess, M.P.P., and Mr. Fell, M.P.P. The trouble is, in the first place, that the Township Council of Mariposa passed a bill relating to certain debentures for the erection of a new High school and did not pay the money, and in the second place, that certain members of the County Council of Victoria are opposed to the continuance of the High school. The deputation thought that the school had prospered sufficiently to warrant its continuance, and they asked for the opinion of the Minister on this point. Mr. Ross said that the school had done good work and had justified its establishment, and that it was more largely attended than many High schools that were maintained by County Councils.

**THE PREMIER UNWELL:**—Mr. Mowat was unable, owing to a very severe cold, to proceed with the motions standing in his name on the order paper.

**AN ACREAGE RATE:**—Mr. G. B. Smith has introduced a bill to provide that in townships for works of local improvement assessments may be by an acreage rate in lieu of a frontage rate, and that where the owners of real property have constructed works which might have been constructed by the local municipality as local improvements, the Council may agree to acquire the same, and the purchase money may be raised as for local improvements upon the real property benefited.

**PROTECTION FOR PRINTERS:**—Petitions will be presented to the Assembly in favor of imposing a hawkers' or peddlers' license upon all canvassers for job printing who do not reside in the municipality in which the work is solicited. It is claimed that the business of country offices is seriously affected by canvassers for city job establishments. The desire is simply that the agents for the job printing offices shall be placed on the same footing as peddlers of tea, dry goods and other commodities.

**SOME OF THE NEW MEN:**—Mr. Richard Clarke, the new Liberal member for East Northumberland, was about the House for a short time, but he was not introduced to the Speaker and did not take his seat.

**VOICES OF THE NIGHT:**—There is a wonderful similarity in the voices of Speaker Baxter and Mr. Meredith, but still you could tell Mr. Meredith's from Mr. Baxter's in the dark with your eyes shut if the Opposition leader were using his on a political topic.

**A FUGITIVE:**—Mr. Graham had the notion that Mr. O'Connor, of South Bruce, was to second his motion to admit the public to the galleries in time for the opening of the House.

But when Mr. Graham rose Mr. O'Connor escaped from the Chamber.

He must have had a very urgent call. It is only the wicked that flee when no man pursueth.

Very likely Mr. O'Connor just rushed in to hear prayers and then had to leave to keep an engagement.

Of course everybody acquainted with the member for South Bruce knows that he would

run on an up-grade for five lots rather than be absent from prayers.

**POLICE MAGISTRATES:**—Mr. Phelps' bill to amend the Act respecting police magistrates provides that under the Canada Temperance Act the salaries of police magistrates in counties with a population of 6,000 and not less than 4,000 shall be \$700 per annum, and in counties where the population is more than 6,000 shall be \$800 per annum.

**THE YOUNG LIBS:**—A deputation of members of the Toronto Young Men's Liberal Club will wait upon the Attorney-General this afternoon to present the club's resolution in favor of providing severe penalties for personation at municipal elections.

**MAKING MAGISTRATES:**—Col. Clarke has introduced his bill to amend the Municipal Act, which provides that the head of every Council and the Reeve, Deputy-Reeve and Second Deputy-Reeve of every town, township and incorporated village should be justices of the peace for the whole county or union of counties, and that Aldermen in cities shall be justices of the peace for such cities.

**A VISITOR:**—Mr. R. Ferguson, of The Listowel Banner, was among the visitors to the press gallery. Mr. Ferguson runs one of the best weeklies in the west. He is likewise a trusted and active member of the Liberal party of Perth.

**FOUR OF A KIND:**—Four and a half per cent. of the Assembly is Clarke. There are four specimens of that very fine brand of legislator. These are:—Clarke, of East Wellington; Clarke, of East Northumberland, and the two Clarkes of Toronto.

**LICENSES FOR NEWSBOYS:**—A deputation from the Toronto Humane Society, to consist of Mr. W. R. Brock, Mr. W. H. Howland, Mr. Beverley Jones and Mr. J. J. Kelso, will interview Mr. Mowat to press for legislation for Toronto, by which youthful offenders may be tried by a separate judge, so as not to necessitate their appearance with hardened criminals at the Police Court and under which newsboys may be licensed and girls prohibited from selling papers on the street and thereby saved from a calling which has crowded scores into licentious lives.

**WANTED:**—Among the petitions presented were the following:—

By Mr. Fell—From the Council of Emily Township, for legislation that will permit actions to be brought to recover lands along the boundary lines of farms notwithstanding the lapse of ten years since adverse possession was had, and to increase to twenty years the limit of time within which such actions may be taken.

By Mr. Dack—From the County Council of Bruce, asking for a grant for the improvement of roads in the Bruce Peninsula.

By Mr. Nairn—From the County Council of Elgin, for a special form of by-law to be used by municipalities in issuing debentures for public improvements.

By Mr. Nairn—From the same municipal body, for an amendment to the Line Fence Act so that where the terminal points of original lines between adjacent farms are known these lines may be straightened, notwithstanding the fact that for ten years they may have deviated from the original lines.

And Mr. Robillard presented petitions bearing about 100 signatures, which declare that the present system of taxation tends greatly to restrict building operations and the improvement of agricultural land; that a tax on land values exclusive of improvements would prevent the withholding of land from use and would encourage every branch of productive industry; and asking for such legislation as will deprive municipalities of the power of taxing the products of labor and as will compel them to levy all taxes on land values.