

talked with an industry that would drive Charley Rykert into immediate retirement on to the fund contributed by Mr. Sands for the Lincoln statesman's old age. But the offenders of this kind were few. As a rule the spokesmen of the deputations put their case briefly and compactly, and Mr. Mowat in a few moments gathered the substance of their representations. The Premier is a marvel of courtesy under weariness and of patience under the most trying circumstances. There cannot be too many deputations nor too many in a hill. The Government are doubtless glad to get such authoritative expressions of the public feeling. It is in the interest of sound and satisfactory government that all classes of the community should approach the Government with their grievances and recommendations with the utmost freedom and candor. But it is not often that the interests of a deputation are served by a set speech, and it is never well that valuable time should be wasted in ornamental oratory. The Premier of Ontario does not require the laborious recitation of the whole multiplication table to enable him to understand that twelve times twelve are a hundred and forty-four.

**Beloved deys:** Be many, come often, be frank, be fearless, but do not orate and do not deny the facts a good honest chance to speak for themselves. It is the logic of facts that tells with the Mowat Government.

**UPPER CANADA COLLEGE SITE:**—HON. G. W. Ross introduced a bill respecting the endowment of Toronto University, University College and Upper Canada College. It is proposed instead of selling the Upper Canada College property to transfer it to the University. It has been decided that it will be more advantageous to the University to use the property as a means of revenue than to hold a sale and devote the proceeds to endowment.

**PORT HOPE'S INDEBTEDNESS:**—The Council of Port Hope will press for a reduction of the amount payable by that municipality under the Municipal Loan Fund Act settlement. It is claimed by representatives of Port Hope that had it not been for a surplus of \$3,000 of Scott Act fines a rate of two cents would hardly have sufficed for the wants of the municipality last year. They claim, too, that the municipality has expended its borrowed money in opening up the back country, and is entitled to consideration on grounds of service to the Province. It is understood to be the intention to ask for a measure of relief for Port Hope as an amendment to the Government's compromise with Cobourg and St. Catharines.

**LIVE STOCK INSURANCE:**—Mr. Bishop, of Huron, has a bill by which he proposes to utilise the machinery for the formation of mutual fire insurance companies for the purposes of mutual live stock insurance in local municipalities.

**COST OF THE SCOTT ACT:**—A return brought down by the Provincial Secretary, showing the estimates of expenses of license commissioners and including the salaries and expenses of county police magistrates for the years 1836 and 1837, puts the total expenditure for the first year at \$61,200 and for the second year at \$34,337. The travelling expenses of police magistrates without salary was \$1,816. Then there are twenty-one county police magistrates under the Scott Act whose salaries aggregate \$12,500 and whose travelling expenses amount to \$4,550.

**RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENTS:**—Mr. Bronson, of Ottawa, has an important bill to amend the Railway Act.

The first clause is a transcript of a New York statute which prohibits the use of any kind of stove or furnace except on mixed or accommodation trains, and provides that heating shall be by steam or hot water.

Another clause is a transcript of a Massachusetts statute which prohibits the use for lighting or for other purposes of any lamp or other contrivance, suspended or stationary, and of the use of burning petroleum, burning fluid or oil of any kind.

Then it is proposed that on all bridges there shall be guard rails fitted with inch railway frogs that will restore to the track a derailed car or locomotive.

It is provided also that cross ties or sleepers on bridges shall be not more than two inches apart and shall form a level and continuous floor.

Mr. Bronson takes also from a public statute of Massachusetts, passed in 1832, the

clause providing that only through or relief trains shall be allowed to run on the Lord's Day.

The bill provides further that railway companies shall apply to every locomotive appliances to prevent the escape of sparks from the smokestack or of fire or burning coals from the ashpan.

Nor may railway companies deposit fire, coal or ashes on their tracks in the vicinity of lands or woodlands, liable to be overrun by fire, and employees must be instructed to report at the first station the fact of the presence of fire at any point on the road.

Again, railway companies in seasons of drought must employ additional trackmen for the extinguishment of fires that may break out along their right of way.

It is also provided that all passenger cars must be furnished with a set of tools, to consist of axe, sledge-hammer, crowbar and hand-saw, the same as now stipulated by a statute of the State of New York.

The bill is one of the first importance, and except it should be held that there are doubts as to the jurisdiction of the Legislature to enact some of its provisions, it will bear close and sympathetic consideration.

**A MAP:**—Mr. G. B. Kirkpatrick, chief of the survey staff of the Crown Lands Department, has presented the Press Gallery with a new map of Ontario just issued from that department. The same favor will also be extended to the Toronto Press Club. This map shows the counties, townships, railways and postoffices of the Province, and is probably the best general purpose map of Ontario that has ever been prepared.

**AN EARLY DEATH:**—The House slaughtered with despatch and unanimity Mr. Phelps's bill to increase the salaries of county police magistrates to \$700 in counties with a population of between 40,000 and 60,000, and to \$200 in counties with a population in excess of 60,000. Mr. Phelps was urged by the Premier, Mr. Meredith and the Provincial Treasurer to apply his arguments to the County Councils. It is true, as contended by Mr. Phelps and Mr. Drury, that the County Councils are drawing revenue from the fines imposed under the Scott Act, and it is equally true that the police magistrates are not over-paid. But it is a fair argument that the appeal for better terms should be made to the County Councils, and the duty and responsibility put where it belongs.

**UP HEAD:**—It is said there was great cheering when Mr. G. B. Smith entered the Reform Club for lunch yesterday. The fame of his speech on the Budget had gone before him. He was going about in the afternoon round-shouldered with the weight of his congratulations.

**A TEAM:**—The two Woods are pulling together. Mr. Wood, of Brant, made a brief practical speech in support of the second reading of his bill to provide for the publication of municipal financial statements in advance of the municipal nominations, and Mr. Wood, of Hastings, seconded the motion with emphasis. They are at the back of a good measure and they are both faithful and level-headed legislators.

**THE COURTS:**—In reply to Mr. French, the Attorney-General said it was not the intention of the Government during this session to introduce any legislation affecting the jurisdiction of the Division or County Courts.

**A DEBATE WITH A MORAL:**—The discussion on Mr. Blyth's motion as to the investment of sinking funds of municipalities had a moral—several morals in fact. These are:—(1) Have no sinking funds; (2) issue all debentures on the plan of equal annual payments; (3) grant no bonuses, except perhaps for legitimate railway enterprises; and in this last respect the moral does not apply to the County of Grey.

**BREVITIES:**—Dr. Sinclair, President of the North Brant Reform Association, was about the House for a short time.

Mr. Clearwater, of The Huntsville Forester, and Mr. Wm. A. Kelsey, of the Burk's Falls Arrow, formed a kind of connecting link between the northern deputations. They both control live local journals. The Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts have few more influential friends than The Arrow and The Forester.

Mr. John Gillies, ex-M.P.P. for North Bruce; Mr. McIver, of Alberman, and Mr. Walmsely, of Wiarton, are in the city for the purpose of supporting the petition of the Bruce County Council for a grant towards the opening up of roads in the Bruce Peninsula.

**IMMIGRATION:**—The report on immigration states that during the past year the wages of farm laborers were kept to the standard of the previous year, notwithstanding the general fall in the price of farm products. Experienced farm laborers, newly arrived, commanded from \$150 to \$175 per annum, and persons having previous experience of Canadian farming \$170 to \$200, with board and lodging in both cases. The demand commenced early in April and continued till the end of October, all the farm laborers arriving during that period being engaged almost immediately on their arrival and settled at little expense to the Government. In 1886, as compared with 1885, there was an increase of 7,938 in the number of passengers landed at Halifax, Quebec and Montreal; and of 1,315 in the number of immigrants who remained in the Province of Ontario. Owing to the rise in the rate of railway fares between New York and Chicago, a larger number of immigrants than in 1885 passed through Canadian ports and over Canadian railways to the Western States. During the last few years few domestic servants have reached this Province. This is mainly due to the fact that they are offered free passage to the Australian Colonies, while they must pay \$21 75 from Liverpool to Toronto.

**THE EX-SPEAKER SPEAKS:**—Col. Clarke made a brief speech in support of his bill to make magistrates of all municipal representatives except Councillors. He spoke with ease and fluency, and gave the impression that he has developed into a strong debater. He is an influence in the House, both by virtue of his debating strength and by right of his great knowledge of Parliamentary practice, and he may be trusted to rise to a yet more prominent place in Provincial affairs.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**—According to the report of the Minister of Public Works, the expenditure for the year for fuel, gas and water in the public institutions was \$25,486 and for repairs to buildings and works, furnishings and rents, \$33,693. The total expenditure on public buildings and works was \$230,412 in 1836 and \$431,651 in 1837, and has been \$5,687,901 since 1867. The Government purchased drainage debentures during the year from Ekfrid, West Wawanosh, East Zorra, Southwold, Dunwich, Warwick and Moore, to the amount of \$16,366.

**FROM BURK'S FALLS:**—The northern army embraces a detachment from Burk's Falls and neighborhood consisting of Mr. A. R. Town, J.P., chairman of the delegation; Mr. Hugh Hunter, Reeve of Armour; Mr. James Sharp, Division Court clerk; Mr. R. H. Menzies, merchant; Mr. E. O. Taylor, merchant; Mr. W. A. Kelsey, of The Burk's Falls Arrow; Mr. Henry Mair, Reeve of Strong; Mr. Wm. Brisbane, of Sundridge, and Mr. George Morrison, Reeve of North Himsforth. They desire a division of the Parry Sound District, but only for judicial purposes. They propose to constitute their district by taking in all the townships from the eastern line of McMurrich, Ryerson, Chapman, Lount, Pringle and Patterson, and off the Nipissing District the Townships of McCraney, Butt, Paxton, Ballantyne, Chisholm and Ferries. This would leave Parry Sound West with 27 townships, and would leave Muskoka with 22 townships, as now constituted.

**PARKDALE'S WANTS:**—A bill introduced by Mr. Leys, respecting the Town of Parkdale, asks to have the local improvement provisions applied to Dufferin street and Roncesvalles avenue notwithstanding that they are partly in Toronto and partly in Parkdale; for power to issue, from time to time, debentures not to exceed on the whole \$50,000 under by-law approved by the people; to have confirmed a by-law for the issue of debentures for \$20,000, to form part of the sum of \$50,000; for power to issue, from time to time, debentures not to exceed \$20,000 for payment on the Queen street subway, the interest to be paid annually at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent., and for power to change the assessment under a drainage by-law.

"W. A." writes:—"I would suggest to Mr. Gibson, the member for Huron, to widen the scope of the bill regulating the charge for work done in flour mills, and make it include all trades and professions. It is scarcely fair that the baker should fix the rate at which he shall sell his bread, the sawmiller his lumber, the merchant his goods, manufacturers of every kind their products, and the flourmiller only have his regulated by law. One would think that it would only need public attention to be called to such obsolete legislation to have it swept away."