

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## Sixth Parliament, Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

February 17, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

### BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following bills were presented and read the first time:—

To amend the Act respecting insurance-companies—Mr. Bishop.

To vest in Emily Rebecca Winstanley the ownership of certain lands in fee simple—Mr. Widdifield.

To incorporate the Ottawa, Arnprior & Refrew Railway Co.—Mr. Monk.

Respecting the Port Arthur, Duluth & Western Railway Co.—Mr. Connee.

To legalise certain by-laws and debentures of the Towns of Berlin and Waterloo—Mr. Snider.

Respecting a certain railway debenture debt of the Township of Thorah—Mr. Gould.

To amend the Act respecting cemetery companies—Mr. Garson.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Garson.

To provide for the division of the Township of Walsingham—Mr. O'Connor.

To amend the Registry Act—Mr. Clancy.

To incorporate the Village of Chester—Mr. H. E. Clarke (Toronto).

To confirm a certain agreement made between the Great Western Railway Company of Canada, the Canada Southern Railway Company and the London & Port Stanley Railway Company, and a certain agreement made between the Southern & Southwestern Railway Company and the Canada Southern Railway Company—Mr. Meredith.

Respecting industrial farms and houses of industry—Hon. Mr. Hardy.

To amend the Act to incorporate the Brockville, Westport & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company, the mover explaining that he had not seen the bill until it was in print, and he did not wish to be considered as committed to some of its provisions—Hon. Mr. Fraser.

To amend the Act incorporating the Ottawa & Thousand Island Railway Company—Hon. Mr. Fraser.

### THE HOME RULE RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. CLANCY asked whether copies of certain resolutions passed by this House on 22nd April, 1887, were sent to the Rt. Hon. William Ewart Gladstone, M.P., and Charles Stewart Parnell, M.P., or either of them, as directed by this House; whether any acknowledgment had been made of the receipt of said copies by the gentlemen to whom they were directed to be sent, or either of them; and if so, what are the contents of such reply or replies?

Hon. Mr. MOWAT—Copies of the resolution referred to were sent to Messrs. Gladstone and Parnell shortly after the prorogation of the House. I am aware that they were received by these gentlemen, because they were published for the information of the people of Great Britain. There has been no formal acknowledgment, but I know from private communication that they intend to make some acknowledgment.

### DELAYED PETITIONS.

Mr. CLANCY—Resolution—"That in the opinion of this House all returns ordered by the House should be brought down as early as possible consistent with a due regard to the public service. That it is to be regretted that many returns ordered by this House during the last Parliament have not yet been brought down, thereby depriving the members of this House of the means of obtaining important and useful information." He complained that there was great delay in presenting some most important returns. One ordered so long ago as 29th February, 1884, had never yet been brought down. He condemned the course of the Government in allowing these interests to be delayed and dwelt upon the importance of prompt obedience by the Government to orders of the House for information to be laid before it.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said he presumed the hon. gentleman hardly expected to carry the latter part of his resolution, which was a direct censure of the Government. The hon. gentleman evidently was not aware that the strict practice of Parliament was that when a return was not brought down in the session in which it was ordered the order for it was renewed. He quoted from May and Bourinot on this point, and pointed out that it was the reasonable and convenient practice. It was true that sometimes, as a matter of convenience, returns

ordered one session were brought down the next, but in taking the course it did the Government was within the line of strict Parliamentary practice. He moved the following amendment:—That returns ordered in a previous session are frequently, as a matter of convenience, presented in the following session, but the strict practice of Parliament requires that when Parliament is prorogued, before a return is presented an order for the return should be obtained in the ensuing session, as if no order had been previously made.

Mr. MEREDITH said that the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. Fraser) was responsible for the delay, and in former sessions, when asked about these returns, he put off the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) with the statement that he was busy or the delay was unavoidable. It seemed now like a breach of faith, after the hon. gentleman had refrained from asking the renewal of the orders, to treat him as it was now proposed to do.

Mr. CLANCY said that the Government sought to shield itself behind the rules of the House, although the practice had not been in accordance with these rules. The practice had been to bring down papers, although ordered in a previous session or even a previous Parliament. There were no fewer than 54 sessional clerks employed, and there was not a quarter of a return each for them to prepare in a session. The sole reason for opposing the motion was that the Government had a large majority.

Mr. FRASER said that was not the sole reason. What he had said was that the House would not censure the Government for following the strict practice of Parliament. The convenience of that rule was shown by the fact that out of eleven returns ordered in 1884 only one or two would now be of any use.

Mr. WOOD (Hastings) said that if a motion for a return held good for only one session there was all the more reason for urgency.

The House divided on Mr. Fraser's amendment, which was carried by 41 to 24. The following is the division list:—

YEAS.—Allan, Armstrong, Awrey, Balfour, Ballantyne, Bishop, Biehard, Bronson, Chisholm, Clarke (Northumberland), Clarke (Wellington), Connee, Dack, Dryden, Ferguson, Field, Fraser, Freeman, Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Gould, Graham, Hardy, Hilliard, Lyon, McAndrew, McLaughlin, Mowat, Murray, Nairn, O'Connor, Pacaud, Phelps, Rayside, Robillard, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Smith, Waters, Widdifield—41.

NAYS.—Blyth, Clancy, Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Craig, Creighton, Cruess, Fell, French, Hammell, Hess, Ingram, Meacham, Meredith, Miller, Monk, Morgan, Ostrom, Preston, Rorke, Stewart, Tooley, Whitney, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—24.

Hon. A. M. ROSS announced that arrangements, including a special train, had been made for members and their wives and friends to visit the Agricultural College next Wednesday.

### SEED GRAIN COMPANIES.

Mr. TOOLEY moved for a return of copies of the evidence taken by Mr. Amelius Irving, Q.C., with reference to the Ontario Grain & Seed Company, and of the report, if any, made by him with regard to the said company, its formation or operations. He said that the farmers had been defrauded of large sums of money, and that the Government deserved credit for appointing a commission to inquire into the matter.

Mr. INGRAM said that farmers in his section had suffered severely from frauds in connection with seed grain.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said that the report of the Commissioner would be laid before the House. He understood that true bills had been found against the principal officers of the company.

Mr. WOODS (Hastings) said the wonder was that anybody could be found so ignorant

as to accept the promises which were made in connection with these seed grain transactions.

Hon. Mr. HARDY said he had noticed a case in which a person who had bought these receipts by wholesale had sued upon some of them and had been successful. He had been a little surprised by this result, as he had supposed that in such a case notice would be imputed to the party. It was not only ignorant persons who were deceived by these agents. He knew of a case where a very intelligent farmer had gone into the transaction, hoping to profit by it, and he must say that he did not consider him free from blame.

Mr. MEREDITH said he believed there was actually a case in which an agent for agricultural implements had been taken in. (Laughter.)

The motion was carried.

Mr. Ingram's motion for a return of fees paid to county officers in 1887 was withdrawn.

### THE MINING POLICY.

Mr. MEREDITH rose to move his resolution in favor of the appointment of a committee to take evidence as to the timber and mineral resources of the Province.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT suggested that the resolution should be postponed.

Mr. MEREDITH expressed a strong preference for going on at once. He asked whether the Government intended to oppose or agree to this resolution.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said he thought they could hardly agree with it.

Mr. MEREDITH—That is to say, you will oppose it. When will the Government bring on the debate on the Inter-Provincial resolutions?

Hon. Mr. MOWAT—Next week. I thought Thursday would be a pretty good day.

Mr. MEREDITH pointed out that that would put the debate off for a week, and the plea might be urged that that was too late for the committee to get to work, and this would be given as a reason for not considering the motion.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT—You'll have a month of the session after that.

The resolution was postponed for the time being.

### UNSAFE BUILDINGS.

Mr. BRONSON, moving the second reading of his bill to amend the Municipal Act, explained that its object was to empower Municipal Councils to prevent the erection of unsafe buildings, even where those buildings were not of a public character.

The bill was read the second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

### DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES.

Mr. NAIRN moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Ditches and Watercourses Act. He explained that it was to carry out what was intended to be done last year—authorize county engineers to order covered draining in certain cases. At present the law was not direct in its application.

After a brief discussion the bill was read the second time and referred to the Municipal Committee.

### COUNTY ROADS.

Mr. WOOD (Hastings) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Municipal Act, explaining that it was to define the responsibility of the County Council in certain cases relating to roads controlled by the county.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

The following private bills were read the second time:—

To authorize the Town of Almonte to issue certain debentures—Mr. Hilliard.

Respecting Trinity church, Toronto—Mr. Leys.

To enable the Orphans' Home, Ottawa, to borrow money—Mr. Bronson.

To extend the time for the completion of the Saugeen Valley railway—Mr. Meredith.

Respecting a certain debenture debt of the Township of Bexley—Mr. Fell.

To legalise a certain by-law of the Town of Sault Ste. Marie—Mr. Leys.

The House adjourned at 5.15 o'clock.