

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Sixth Parliament, Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

February 21, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

A large number of petitions was presented, including several praying that no Act be passed requiring registration of business transactions, or otherwise placing an impediment thereon.

FIRST READINGS.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

To enable the Corporation of the County of Perth to sell certain lands—Mr. Ballantyne.

To incorporate the Village of Tavistock—Mr. Ballantyne.

To amend the law regulating the building of bridges across streams and rivers—Mr. Awrey.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Lees.

To consolidate the debts of the Town of Ridgetown—Mr. Ferguson.

Respecting the Nicholls Hospital trust—Mr. Stratton.

To authorise the Corporation of the Town of Peterboro' to issue debentures—Mr. Stratton.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Waters.

To amend the Assessment Act—Mr. Phelps.

To authorise the Corporation of the City of London to sell certain lands known as exhibition grounds—Mr. French.

Respecting stenographers for County Courts—Mr. French.

Respecting Manitoulin—the Attorney-General.

CLOSING OF SHOPS.

Hon. Mr. FRASER moved the second reading of the bill to regulate the closing of shops and the hours of labor. He said that the bill had been received with very considerable public favor. He proposed when the bill was committed to submit several amendments lessening the number of hours per week during which a child may work; making provision for the sale of drugs by parties who are druggists; enacting that seats must be provided for employees, and providing that Councils should not have power to order the closing of stores earlier than a certain fixed time. The bill was read the second time.

ARBITRATION WITH QUEBEC.

The House went into committee on the bill respecting arbitration with the Province of Quebec, introduced by the Attorney-General. The bill was reported to the House without amendment and read a second time.

REVISED STATUTES OF ONTARIO.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved the second reading of the bill respecting the Revised Statutes of Ontario. He explained that this bill was in reality a simple confirmation of the recent revision and consolidation of the Ontario Statutes, this being considered necessary, because the revising and consolidating commissioners during their labors had met with a number of questions in regard to which there was more or less difficulty. They had had to consider and determine just what was the meaning of the Legislature in regard to points that may have been considered ambiguous. If the proceedings of the commissioners were not confirmed in the manner proposed, it would be open to anybody to say that the revisers had not correctly interpreted the law; but by passing this Act it would be sufficient to refer to the statutes as they now appeared.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, Mr. Harcourt in the chair, and the following items were passed:—

MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

For the Asylum for the Insane, Toronto, \$103,753.

For the Asylum for the Insane, London, \$122,542.

For the Asylum for the Insane, Kingston, \$24,411.

For the Asylum for the Insane, Hamilton, \$102,820. This was an increase over last year's estimates of \$18,778, created on account of the erection of a new building, explained Hon. Mr. Hardy.

For the Asylum for Idiots, Orillia, \$47,661, being an increase over last year's estimate of \$18,361, due to an increase in the number of patients from 235 in 1837 to 375 in 1888.

For the Central Prison, Toronto, \$90,925.

For the Ontario Reformatory for Boys, Penetanguishene, \$43,360.

For the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville, \$40,350 50.

For the Institution for the Blind, Brantford, \$16,226.

QUESTION OF TENDERS.

Hon. Mr. HARDY explained, in reply to a question put by Mr. French, that the policy pursued by the Government in regard to receiving or not receiving tenders for supplies to public institutions was the same now as that established under the Government of the late Sandfield Macdonald. Certain goods were tendered for and certain goods were not. Groceries and dry-goods had not been tendered for for many years past, the custom being to purchase these goods from merchants on such terms as were deemed most advantageous to the Government. Mr. Langmuir, when Inspector of Prisons, had reported in favor of that system as against tendering.

OTHER VOTES.

The House then voted \$281,412 20 on account of public buildings, and \$50,496 on account of public works.

The House adjourned at 5.10 p.m. until Thursday.

COMMITTEES.

The Railway Committee met yesterday morning, but there was no business ready to be proceeded with, and an adjournment was made until Thursday morning. The Private Bills Committee reported bills relating to the Toronto General Hospital, the incorporation of Stayner as a town, empowering the Methodist Church to issue certain debentures, incorporating the Village of East Toronto, and allowing the Village of London West to consolidate its debt.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Hardy—Thursday next—An Act to amend the law respecting the salaries and expenses of police magistrates.

Also, Thursday next—An Act relating to the enforcement of the Canada Temperance Act.

Also, bill respecting sheriffs and executions.

Mr. Garson—Thursday next—An Act to amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Evanturel—Monday next—Order of the House for a return showing the actual boundary line between the Townships of Caledonia and South Plantagenet, in the County of Prescott; the various surveys made and which of them has been definitely accepted by the department; also, the number of acres allotted to each patentee on lot No. 6, in the 20th concession of South Plantagenet.