

(By Our Own Reporter.)

THURSDAY, Feb. 23, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock

FIRST READINGS.

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

To amend the Act relating to the Parry Sound Colonisation Railway Company—Mr. Armstrong.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Daek.

To incorporate the City of Woodstock and for other purposes—Mr. Freeman.

To incorporate the Port Arthur Water and Light Company—Mr. Connee.

To amend the Act incorporating the Iron-
dale & Ottawa Railway Company—Mr. Fell.

To define certain portions of the boundary between the Town of Sandwich and the Township of Sandwich West. Also to amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Balfour.

Relating to the enforcement of the Canada Temperance Act. Also respecting the salaries and expenses of police magistrates—Hon. Mr. Hardy.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—
Respecting Trinity church, Toronto—Mr. Leys.

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

Respecting arbitration with the Province of Quebec—The Attorney-General.

THE QUEBEC RESOLUTIONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved a resolution postponing until Tuesday, the 28th instant, the commencement of the debate on the resolutions of the Inter-Provincial Conference, the debate to have precedence over all other business on each successive day afterwards until the motion is disposed of.

At the suggestion of Mr. MEREDITH, Wednesday, the 29th instant, was substituted for the 28th and the motion carried.

HOME FOR AGED WOMEN.

Hon. Mr. HARDY moved that this House doth ratify an Order in Council approved of by his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on the 13th June, 1887, which Order is to the following effect:—Upon consideration of the report of Mr. Inspector O'Reilly, dated 3rd February last, and upon the recommendation of the honorable the Provincial Secretary, the Committee of Council advise that, subject to the ratification of this Order by the Legislative Assembly at the next session thereof, "The Home for the Aged Women, London," be hereafter taken as named in schedule "B" of the Charity Aid Act and receive aid accordingly from the first day of October, 1886.

The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the bill "respecting the Department of Agriculture and other industries." This measure, he said, was one of peculiar interest to the farming section of the community. By this bill it was proposed to place in the hands of a Minister specially and exclusively all subjects relating to agriculture, and such matters as were associated with agriculture—all societies, for instance, organised under the Act respecting agriculture and arts, the Farmers' Institutes, the Agricultural College and experimental farm, etc. It was intended that the Minister which it was proposed to appoint should have charge also of the Bureau of Industries and the Immigration Office, as being closely connected with the other matters that would receive his attention. The speech of his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor contained an intimation of the proposition contained in the bill, and he ventured to say that the intimation had been received everywhere in the Province with the greatest satisfaction. The advantages of having an Agricultural Minister for the Province were fully recognised all over the Province and

BY BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES.

This would not be wondered at when it was remembered how large a proportion of the people of the Province were engaged in agricultural and kindred pursuits, and that according to the last census the rural population was returned at more than three times the number of the urban population of the Province. Another very interesting fact in connection with the same subject was that of the exports of the Province more than one-half were the produce of farms, and of the other half the greater part were the produce

of forests and mines. By the bill as it came before the House it was proposed also that the fisheries should be placed under the control of the Minister of Agriculture. After further consideration, however, the Government had changed their views upon this point, and had decided that it would be wiser not to include fisheries in the Department. The whole question relating to the matters which would be under the control of the Minister of Agriculture was of great and growing importance. The farming of to-day was very different from the farming of half a century ago, and in the rapid march of progress the farmers of Ontario had kept abreast of

THOSE IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

Wherever the products of the Province had come into competition with those of any State in the United States or with any part of Great Britain the most satisfactory results had followed, as the Exhibitions at Philadelphia in 1876, and at London in 1886, had proved. Still, although the farmers of Ontario compared so satisfactorily with those of other countries, there was a good deal connected with their calling that might be improved, and it was less lucrative than their efforts deserved it should be. It was the object of the Government and of the House to make farming more comfortable and lucrative and inviting than it was at present. (Applause.) They should take every step in their power to collect information of value to those engaged in the industry. Much had been already done in this way. The importance of the agricultural interest had been always recognised. Before Confederation a Minister of Agriculture had existed. The British North America Act specially provided that there should be a Commissioner of Agriculture, and they had always had such. Under the first commissioner, in Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's time, the Agricultural College had been inaugurated. During the same Administration, also, the first improved system of drainage was put in hand, and the sum of \$200,000 was set aside for carrying out that scheme.

DURING HIS OWN PREMIERSHIP

there had been three Commissioners of Agriculture—first their old and genial friend Mr. Keller, one of the most popular of men, who was a practical farmer, and who had taken a very deep and special interest in the work of the department under him. Under him the college was got into working order, the new farm secured and the operations of both institutions commenced. He also still further improved the system of drainage of the Province. Mr. Keller's two successors were not practical farmers, but they were both gentlemen who had been long familiar with the wants of the farming population, and were deeply interested in all that related to the welfare of the farming population. Mr. Wood had been Commissioner of Agriculture for eight years and accomplished much during that period in the way of extending the work of the farm and college, and by revising and consolidating the whole law as found in various statutes bearing on the subject of agriculture. Under his advice also the Agricultural Commission was established, and by attending its meetings and generally superintending its labors he caused the latter to result in the publication of several

VOLUMES OF MOST IMPORTANT FACTS,

which had been frequently said to surpass any other volumes of the kind ever published, which had gone through several editions and which were now to be found in every library in the Province. It was upon his advice that a law was passed to encourage tile drainage, and the sum of \$200,000 allowed out of the Provincial funds to carry it out. He had also done his best to encourage the practice of tree planting. Those were, however, only a few of the measures for which the Province was indebted to the careful attention of Mr. Wood during his career as Commissioner of Agriculture. His (the hon. Attorney-General's) present esteemed and respected colleague, the Treasurer of the Province, had been equally interested in this important work, and he also had made his mark in the agricultural history of the Province. Perhaps the most important measure the country owed to him was the

ESTABLISHMENT OF FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

He did not know any measure which had proved more useful than this. There were now some sixty institutes organised in the Province, although the movement was started at a comparatively recent date. During the past month no less than 50 of these had been visited by the professors of the Agricultural College and the applications for their services from all parts of the Province were far too numerous to be all attended to. His hon. friend had given special attention to the Agricultural College and model farm, and had introduced some valuable measures in regard to those institutions. One of these was that establishing the Advisory

Board, which had been productive of much good. His system of scholarships in connection with the college was also most useful and valuable, and deservedly popular. He had also caused the establishment of a regular dairy department and of a model creamery in connection with the Model Farm, both institutions proving most useful. Under his care further the work of the Bureau of Industries had been much extended. Thus he had shown that the whole subject of agriculture had received careful attention, even while the official in whose care it was had another and a very important department to attend to. If, then, so much had been done on behalf of agriculture and with such beneficial results, when matters connected with it had been attended to in conjunction with the affairs of another department, it was only reasonable to suppose that still more good would follow if all matters relating to agriculture were given

EXCLUSIVELY TO ONE MINISTER.

He thought nobody in the House would disagree with anything he had yet said in regard to the matter, and the only remaining question was this:—Was it necessary to appoint an additional Minister in order to have a Minister of Agriculture, or could they, by a rearrangement of existing departments, avoid the necessity of doing this? It would perhaps be asked if the Treasury could not be attached to some other department. That, however, was quite impossible. The business of every department was such that no addition of this kind could take place without serious injury to the interests of the public. The whole work of the Government of the Province now was carried on by the same number of Ministers that were found necessary immediately after Confederation in spite of the very large increase in population since that time. Mr. Sandfield Macdonald had the same number of Ministers as at present, except a Minister of Education, and the work now done by the Minister of Education was then done by a Chief Superintendent with the same salary, so that the conversion of the superintendency into a Ministership had added nothing to the public expenditure.

It was found impossible under Mr. Crooks to conduct the Department of Education

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TREASURY,

and the business of the Department of Education had much increased since that time. The amount of correspondence was a fair index of the amount of business done. In 1882 the number of letters received in that department was 15,548, while last year the number received was 24,892. The question, then, arose whether there was any other department to which the duties of Minister of Agriculture could be attached? In his own department the number of Orders in Council issued in 1871 was 237; in 1887 it was 765. The number of official files in 1871 was 706; in 1887 it was 1,826. The number of official letters was 152 in 1871 and 2,000 in 1887. The fact was that he would not have been able to keep up with the business of his department at all if it had not been that many legal matters connected with other departments were attended to by his colleagues. The business of the Crown Lands and Public Works Departments had always occupied the whole time and attention of the Minister presiding over them. One hundred thousand square miles had recently been added to the territory of which the Commissioner of Crown Lands had charge. The

MINING INTERESTS OF THE PROVINCE

were growing more and more important and would demand an increasing amount of attention. The Commissioner of Public Works had now in charge the new Parliament buildings and a new asylum at Mimico, which would to a large extent take the place of the Toronto Insane Asylum, and recently an entirely new branch, that of factory inspection, had been added to his department. The business of the Provincial Secretary was enormous, embracing as it did several entirely independent branches, and had he not been a man of exceptional ability for organisation and despatch of business, nothing like the amount of work could have been done. The number of files in his office had increased from 1,585 in 1872 to 3,967 in 1887; the number of letters despatched had increased in the same period from 1,744 to 9,227, besides some 2,000 letters of a semi-private kind. The number of fees received had increased in the same period from \$244 to \$7,711; the number of letters written in connection with prisons and charities had increased from 1,749 to 6,531. The Treasurer, in addition to his other duties, had charge of the Bureau of Health and of Insurance Inspection.

ONE GREAT REASON

why the Ministers had been able to cope with this great amount of business was the experience they had gained during the long period in