

(By Our Own Reporter.)

MONDAY, Feb. 27, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock

### FIRST READINGS.

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

An Act to amend the Assessment Act—Mr. Fell.

An Act to amend the Act respecting the office of sheriff—Hon. Mr. Hardy.

### THIRD READING.

The bill respecting the debt of the Town of Brussels (Mr. Gibson, of Huron) was read a third time.

### PRIVATE BILLS IN COMMITTEE.

The following bills were considered in committee and reported:—

To consolidate the debenture debt of the Town of Wingham—Mr. Ross (Huron.)

To amend the Act incorporating the William Hall Peterboro' Protestant Poor Trust—Mr. Stratton.

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

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

To renew the charter of the Saugeen Valley Railway Company, and to extend the time for the completion of the said railway—Mr. Meredith

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

To incorporate the Central Canada Exhibition Association—Mr. Bronson.

Relating to the Toronto General Hospital—Mr. Leys.

To amend the Methodist Church Act, 1884—Mr. H. E. Clarke (Toronto).

Respecting the incorporation of the Village of East Toronto—Mr. Smith.

To consolidate certain debts of the Village of London West—Mr. Tooley.

To amend the Act incorporating the St. Patrick's Asylum, Ottawa—Mr. Bronson.

### PRIVATE BILLS—SECOND READINGS.

The following private bills were read a second time:—

To further amend the Acts respecting the Port Arthur, Duluth & Western Railway Company—Mr. Connee.

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

To provide for the union of the Townships of Front of Yonge and Front of Escott—Mr. Fraser.

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

### APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES.

Mr. MEREDITH moved the presentation of an address to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a return of the writ of supersedeas issued for the removal of James Goulbourne, Esquire, from the commission of the peace for the County of Peterborough. He had been removed, said Mr. Meredith, in order to please certain political supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said that representations had been made to him that Mr. Goulbourne had been blameable in some respects in connection with the execution of the duties of his office, and he had caused an investigation by the commissioner of the district, as was invariably done when any charges were brought against a magistrate. It had been reported to the Government also that Mr. Goulbourne's property qualification no longer existed, and in the announcement of his removal, which the results of the investigation of the commissioner had rendered necessary in any case, the action of the Government was attributed to this lack of qualification rather than to other reasons, for the sake of Mr. Goulbourne himself. As to the suggestion that the removal was based on political motives, he really did not know when the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, put this question on the order paper, on which side of politics Mr. Goulbourne was, and had not since made any attempt to discover that point. Charges were sometimes made against friends of the Government just as they had been made against Mr. Goulbourne, and they were always impartially investigated. Concerning the appointment of Conservatives as magistrates he would say that this Government had appointed Conservatives just as its predecessor had done. Of course the gentlemen upon whom the Government relied for advice in this matter, other

things being equal, recommended members of the party to which they belonged for appointment, but he had frequently made it a special point to ask them not to recommend for appointment members of their own party only, but to include a fair proportion of members of the Conservative party also.

Mr. GIBSON (Huron) said he could corroborate the statement made by the Attorney-General. He had always asked him to include Conservatives among the list of names he recommended for magistrates.

Mr. Balfour, Mr. Phelps, Mr. Bronson, Mr. Woods, Mr. Leos, Mr. McKay and Mr. Pacaud spoke in similar strain.

### THE LONDON ASYLUM.

Mr. MEREDITH moved the passage of an order of the House for copies of all petitions and correspondence with reference to the drainage of the Asylum for the Insane at London, and the disposal of the sewage therefrom.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said there was room for some of the remarks made by Mr. Meredith, but he was unfair in charging the whole responsibility upon the heads of the Government. The London Asylum had been erected by the predecessors of the present Government, and its site was a most unfortunate one as to the matter of drainage, one that made extremely difficult any scheme for improving its present method of drainage. At the same time he would state for the benefit of the leader of the Opposition that the Government was even now considering in two departments a project for changing and improving the present method of sewage. He would not oppose the motion.

Mr. TOOLEY corroborated Mr. Meredith's statement as to the present system of the drainage of the asylum being "a nuisance" to the residents of London.

### SUPERANNATED TEACHERS.

Mr. MEREDITH moved the passage of an order of the House for copies of all correspondence with reference to the claim of Mr. F. B. Wilkins to be placed on the list of superannuated teachers. Mr. Meredith said Mr. Wilkins had contributed to the superannuation fund until he had reached the age of 56, and had ample claims under the Act to be placed upon the list of superannuated teachers. He had not been so placed because he had lived in the Province of Quebec, after he had been by age incapacitated from further pursuing his avocation in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex) said he constructed the Act as liberally as he could, perhaps from professional sympathy too liberally, but the line must be drawn somewhere, and under the circumstances he thought Mr. Wilkins had forfeited his right to a pension, just as a British soldier entitled to a pension forfeited his right to that pension by joining the French army. Mr. Wilkins was entitled to a refund of the amount he had paid into the superannuated fund as soon as he cared to claim it.

Mr. MEREDITH objected that this was not a proper construction of the Act.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex) held that it was an Ontario statute, and though there was no provision that expressly related to this matter, yet this was a reasonable construction of it.

### MUNICIPAL FIRE INSURANCE.

Mr. SNIDER moved the second reading of his bill respecting fire insurance. The hon. member pointed out the great expense of the present system of municipal insurance and argued in favor of the system which is proposed in this measure, that of relegating the matter of municipal fire insurance to the Council of the municipality, giving them the right to assess and levy taxes for insurance under this Act according to a scale of rates prepared by the Inspector of Insurance for the Province, to defray expenses of management, to pay losses incurred and to create a reserve fund. He allowed that the bill was based on a new idea, and, after a full explanation of its various clauses, he asked of the House a favorable consideration of it.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Huron) complimented the last speaker upon the ability he had displayed in explaining the measure, and upon the thought that he had evidently given to it. It was, as the hon. member had suggested, a new idea, but it appeared to be one well worthy of consideration. The measure was a very comprehensive one, and it appeared to him that it would have the effect of virtually converting a municipality into a mutual insurance company. He was afraid that the hon. member had under-estimated the cost of carrying on the scheme he proposed. He would suggest that the hon. member having introduced the bill and had an opportunity of explaining it, now withdraw it, and give the municipalities an opportunity to discuss it and to give evidence of any desire they had that any such system as that proposed should be brought into operation.

Mr. MEREDITH said the scheme of the bill had been alluded to as a new idea. While he agreed with the Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture as to the credit due to the hon. member now introducing the bill, yet he remembered that a bill, with a somewhat similar intent, had been introduced in 1876, and he was afraid that if the present bill were withdrawn at this stage, it would have no more result than the previous and similar bill. He suggested that a second reading be given to the bill now, and that its details be discussed in committee.

Mr. KERNS said his constituents had asked him to support any measure which seemed likely to institute a cheap and useful system of municipal insurance.

Mr. GIBSON (Huron) feared the cost of the system proposed in the bill would entail upon the municipalities a greater expenditure than the present system.

Mr. CRAIG said that an insurance man had stated that if the Village of Gravenhurst had been insured on this plan of municipal insurance last year everything would have been lost, and every one must agree with that.

Mr. WOOD (Hastings) said that the bill was impracticable.

Mr. O'CONNOR said that he believed some measure in the direction of this bill was required.

Mr. WATERS said that the bill was defective because it did not provide for any discrimination in taking risks.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said that he believed the member who introduced the bill had probably obtained now all that he hoped to obtain this session, namely, the ventilation of the subject.

Mr. SNIDER said that the idea was a new one, and as it had now been pretty well discussed he would withdraw the bill.

### THE DEER SEASON.

Mr. PHELPS moved the second reading of a bill to amend the law for the protection of game. It was his opinion that the law for the protection of game had been a failure. Nearly all sportsmen were of the opinion that the season for deer ought to be shortened. At the rate the deer were now being killed it would only be a question of time when they became extinct.

Mr. ARMSTRONG said he did not agree to the proposal to shorten the time, but thought that hunting deer with dogs should be forbidden.

Mr. WOOD (Hastings) thought it was about time the House stopped amending the game law.

Mr. FRASER said that the moose in Ontario were almost extinct, and nothing but absolute prohibition for a period of years would prevent their extinction. The other species of deer, too, were becoming very scarce, and it was fair that for these the hunting season should be restricted. He did not think, however, that hunting with dogs was so destructive as was supposed. He thought that killing for purposes of sale should be prohibited. Wolves, too, were killing the deer—perhaps faster than the hunters, and he thought it might be well to offer some reward for the killing of wolves.

Mr. MURRAY said that there was a growing feeling that the Government should appoint some person to look after the deer.

The bill was read the second time and referred to a special committee.

Mr. O'CONNOR moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Assessment Act, by giving villages and townships the right to sell tax lands. Carried.

Mr. CLANCY moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Registry Act. He said that the evil aimed at by the bill was the registration of liens upon lands by persons having a claim upon lands for commission. He produced one of the agreements, which provided that the agent should have a commission of 2½ per cent. if he effected a sale, and 1½ per cent. if the owner sold it, and that if the owner wished to withdraw from the agreement he must give six months' notice and pay a commission of one per cent. His bill provided that certain instruments of this class should lapse after a year.

The bill was read the second time and referred to a special committee.

Mr. AWREY'S bill to amend the Municipal Act was read the second time and referred.

Mr. PHELPS moved the second reading of a bill providing that the assessors should collect information as to the number of breeders in their district. Carried.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

### NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. Gilmour—On Wednesday next—Bill amend the Municipal Act.