

## ASSEMBLY NOTES.

The galleries of the House have been crowded during the debates on the resolutions of the Inter Provincial Conference. Speaking generally, it may be said that the debate was brilliant on Wednesday, that it showed alarming signs of fizzling out on Thursday afternoon and that it revived on Thursday evening. The Premier began with a speech couched in a calm and judicial tone, and without any straining after eloquence—altogether a fitting introduction to a debate on a matter of unusual importance.

Mr. Meredith's reply was able and aggressive. It was not a partisan speech in the worst sense, but nevertheless it was a distinct invitation to "come on."

It was the Minister of Education who "came on," and he did it in a style which delighted his friends and gained for him perhaps the first place in the debate. The next day two excellent speeches were made—one by Mr. Balfour, aggressive and effective, and yet showing a just appreciation of the work of the conference; and the other by Mr. Guthrie, who considered the question from a legal and constitutional standpoint, and brought out several new points.

Mr. Guthrie was very happy in his reply to Mr. Meredith's estimate of Messrs. Fielding and Mercier. He thought that Mr. Meredith had had so much experience of the difficulty of becoming a Premier that he might have given those gentlemen more credit for what they did.

On the Opposition side the speeches of Messrs. French and Craig were moderate and thoughtful in tone. The debate stands postponed until Tuesday.

THE FOLLOWING gentlemen dined with the Speaker last evening:—Hon. G. W. Ross, Dr. McLaughlan and Messrs. Snider, Allen, Conmee, Biehard, Gould, Garson, Lyon, Chisholm, Dack, W. B. Wood, Marter, R. Clarke, Mack, Ferguson, Armstrong, Whitney and Wilmot, members of the Assembly; Col. Gillmor, Mr. Wm. Houston, Hon. William Macdougall.

THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE yesterday considered the question of the abolition of toll, and heard the representatives of the various road companies, who were willing that tolls should be abolished but wanted compensation. The task of preparing a proper scheme was entrusted to a sub-committee.

UNDER MR. HARDY'S bill the Sheriff of Toronto is to do duty at the Chancery Division of the H. C. J., the County Court of York, the General Sessions of the Peace and the County Judge's Criminal Court, while the Sheriff of York is to officiate at the Court of Appeal, the Q. B. Division of the H. C. J., the Courts of Assize and Nisi Prius, Oyer and Terminer and general gaol delivery, or High Court sitting in Toronto, elsewhere than Osgoode Hall, the fees to be assigned according to the same division. The sheriff of the city is to have control of the gaol, so long as there is but one for city and county.

MR. FREEMAN yesterday introduced a bill, the object of which is to punish the parties who perpetrate the seed grain frauds that have attracted so much attention lately. It does not interfere with legitimate seed grain sales, but prohibits, as far as possible, sales by agents who do not represent reliable houses, but who sell worthless grain at speculative prices, take the farmers' notes, sell them to a broker and then leave the country.

MR. WOOD, of Hastings, yesterday introduced a bill, the object of which is to provide a cheap and expeditious means of incorporating cheese factory companies.

PERSONAL:—Sheriff Dawson was one of the visitors to the legislative chamber yesterday. . . . Mr. Stratton is going to Chemong Lake to preside over an Indian entertainment. . . . Mr. Dryden has been addressing the West Peterboro' Farmers' Institute.

IT WAS whispered around the House yesterday that the Minister of Agriculture had been chosen, and that his name begins with D.

HOUSES OF REFUGE, ETC.:—The report upon the Houses of Refuge and Orphan and Magdalen asylums was presented yesterday. There are now 21 refuges of various kinds, some for the "friendless" generally, others for special classes of persons, for instance, widows, the aged, and incurables. There are 1,084 women and 942 men in these refuges. In the orphan asylums 1,898 boys and 1,629 girls are cared for. There were three asylums for fallen women, two in Toronto and one in Ottawa, in which there are 285 women.

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