

Sixth Parliament, Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

FRIDAY, March 2, 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 Assessment Act—Mr. Balfour.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Smith.

To amend the Assessment Act—Mr. Guthrie.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Guthrie.

To amend the Act respecting municipal corporations in Muskoka, Parry Sound, etc.—Mr. Lyon.

To amend the Act respecting creameries—Mr. Graham.

RESPECTING WATER LOTS.

Mr. MORIN moved for an order of the House for a return showing the names of the several applicants for grants from the Crown, of the water lots in front of lots 5, 6, 7 and 8, in the first concession of the Township of Bertie, fronting on Niagara River. The names of all the parties to whom patents therefor issued, the dates of such patents and the consideration paid in each case.

The motion was carried.

CONCERNING DRAINAGE WORKS.

Mr. CLANCY moved for an order of the House for a return showing the estimated cost, if any, and actual cost per yard for each drain constructed by or under the Government within the Counties of Lambton, Kent, Elgin and Essex, and the name of the engineer or other person employed by the Ontario Government to make such estimate. The price per yard at which the work was let and whether at public sale or by tender. The salaries or other remuneration paid the engineers or other persons employed by the Ontario Government to superintend the construction of the said drainage works, and charged to the said works respectively. The hon. member charged that he had not been fairly treated in connection with his request for these returns. Other members had asked last session for returns on various matters, and they had been furnished this session, but the returns he had asked for had not been. The hon. member then proceeded to discuss the accounts referred to in this matter, and during his remarks said the inaccuracies which the Treasurer had admitted to exist in those accounts would never have been discovered had they not been pointed out by members of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Huron) denies the accuracy of this statement. The errors had been discovered by the department, and in his Budget statement he had mentioned that these errors had been discovered and were being attended to.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said the hon. member (Mr. Clancy) not having received the returns for which he had asked, might have drawn his attention to the matter concerning them instead of putting a notice on paper which he evidently wished to be considered as a censure on the Government. The Government had no objection to those returns being furnished. Many of the details requested had, in fact, already appeared in some shape or other. He supposed, however, that the hon. member wished them in a compact form, and he would endeavor to see that he was provided with them during the present session.

Mr. CLANCY also moved for similar returns concerning drainage works in the Township of Raleigh.

Hon. Mr. FRASER promised that these also should be brought down.

Mr. CLANCY also moved for returns giving many details in connection with drainage works done under the provisions of the Ontario Drainage Acts of 1869 and 1873, and in respect of each municipality in which such work was done.

Hon. Mr. ROSS said he had no objection to the hon. gentleman asking for the fullest information in regard to this matter, but he thought it was hardly fair to the department to require of it such details as did this motion. If a portion of these details were furnished, the hon. member or any one else especially interested in them could deduce the rest.

Mr. CLANCY thought his motion was not

unreasonable.

Hon. Mr. FRASER suggested that the hon. member should confer with the hon. Treasurer and try and make convenient arrangement as to the matter that should be furnished in the return.

Mr. CLANCY assented and his motion passed.

INDEBTEDNESS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

Mr. MEREDITH asked if the resolution passed in 1884, requiring that there should be laid upon the table during the first ten days of every session a statement showing the indebtedness of each municipality in arrears, had been complied with this year. He thought the resolution had been complied with every year until the present. He had not seen it this year. He would also ask what steps had been taken by the Government with a view to settling up those arrears.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Huron) said the return alluded to had not been yet brought down. The department had been exceptionally busy during the past year, as some of the members knew from proceedings conducted elsewhere, but he would promise to have them laid before the House as soon as possible. As to the steps taken to wind up such arrears, he would say that he had devoted considerable attention to the subject and had made some progress. It was a very difficult matter once a municipality got into arrears to enforce collection of indebtedness; the Government, however, was doing its best.

NUMBER OF WOLVES.

Mr. MONK moved for an order of the House for a return showing the counties in Ontario that offer a bounty for the destruction of wolves, the amount offered and the amount paid by such counties since 1880. The hon. gentleman said occasion had called him to the northwest part of the Province last year and he had been surprised to learn of the number of wolves which residents declared existed there. He favored the idea of the Government giving some assistance to some of the counties most troubled in this matter.

ASSESSMENT OF FARMING STOCK.

Mr. WATERS moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Assessment Act. He explained that the object of the bill was to do away with the assessment of farming stock. There were two reasons why this system should be abolished. One was that where capital was assessed income should not be. That was a principle that was generally admitted. The second reason was that the scale of assessment of farming stock was unfair and inequitable. The hon. gentleman went into these points minutely, and then asked that the bill be read a second time and, if the House thought proper, referred then to the Municipal Committee.

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

SECTIONAL BONUSES.

Mr. DACK moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Municipal Act. He explained that the object of the bill was to allow townships to grant sectional bonuses to railways.

The bill was read a second time.

CONSTRUCTION OF WATER-WORKS.

Mr. CONMEE moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Municipal Act. He explained that its object was to enable municipal corporations to construct water-works under cap. 630 of the Municipal Act. As the law was at present municipalities had power to construct water-works for special purposes only. This amendment proposed to give them power to construct such works for general purposes.

The bill also proposed changes in the method of assessing for the cost of such works.

The bill was read a second time.

BILLS REPORTED.

The House went into committee, Mr. Awrey in the chair, and reported the following bills:—

Respecting the Methodist church of Aurora—Mr. Widdifield.

To authorise the Trustees of the Toronto General Burying Grounds to sell certain lands—Mr. E. F. Clarke.

Respecting the Town of Parkdale—Mr. Leys.

Respecting a certain agreement made between the Town of Lindsay, the Midland railway of Canada and the Grand Trunk railway of Canada—Mr. Leys.

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

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

SECOND READINGS.

To incorporate the Peterborough & Chemong Lake Railway Company—Mr. Leys.

To incorporate the Ottawa, Arnprior & Renfrew Railway Company—Mr. Monk.

Respecting the South Norfolk Railway Company—Mr. Morgan.

Respecting by-law No. 402 of the City of Brantford—Mr. Hardy.

To amend the Acts respecting the St. Catharines, Merritton & Thorold Street Railway Company—Mr. Garson.

Respecting the Nicholls Hospital Trust—Mr. Stratton.

Defining a portion of the boundary between the Town of Sandwich and the Township of Sandwich West—Mr. Balfour.

To enable the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, of London, to sell certain lands—Mr. Meredith.

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

To amend the Act incorporating the Brockville, Westport & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company—Mr. Fraser.

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

A CORRECTION.

Mr. WATERS said that he had been reported as saying:—"Before the original union of the old Province of Quebec a state of dissatisfaction was apparent in that Province, etc.," and that what he did say was:—"Long after the old Province of Quebec was divided into Upper and Lower Canada an agitation sprung up for the re-union of the two Provinces, which was accomplished in 1841. After that union the population of Upper Canada increased much faster than Lower Canada, a demand was made for representation based upon population, which was continually gaining ground, and the state of affairs were such about 1864 that neither of the parties could form a Government strong enough to carry on the affairs of the country."

The House adjourned at 5.15.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. FIELD—On Tuesday next—Order of the House for a return showing the amount received from poll-tax in cities, towns and villages for the year 1886