

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## Sixth Parliament, Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

WEDNESDAY, March 14, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

### FIRST READINGS.

To amend the Married Woman's Real Estate Act—Mr. Guthrie.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Nairn.

To amend the Arbitration Act—Mr. Conmee.

To amend the Ontario Election Act—Mr. Conmee.

### INSURANCE.

Hon. O. MOWAT introduced a bill to amend the Act relating to insurance companies. He explained that the bill was intended to authorize the payment of claims to persons not domiciled in the Province.

### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Hon. O. MOWAT, replying to Mr. Meredith, said that the Government did not intend to proceed with the Friendly Societies' Bill this session.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. CONMEE'S bill respecting the Town of Port Arthur and the municipalities of Shuniah and Neening, and Mr. Gibson's bill to declare the effect of certain mortgages and conveyances made by the churchwardens of Christ church, Hamilton, were read a third time and passed.

### THE MINING RESOLUTION.

Mr. H. E. CLARKE resumed the debate on Mr. Meredith's resolution asking for the appointment of a committee to consider the mineral and timber resources of the country. He objected to the Government claiming that they were doing everything they did in the interests of the Province. If the House believed half that the members of the Government told it they would believe them to be willing "to die in the Civil Service of the country." (Laughter.) He claimed that the conduct of the Government in announcing this Royal Commission that was now proposed after the leader of the Opposition had introduced his resolution on the subject was very suspicious, to say the least of it, and looked as if it had been prompted by the Opposition motion. The hon. gentleman pointed out various points in which he considered the appointment of a committee would have been of great use.

Mr. CLANCY claimed that the hon. Commissioner of Public Works had not made out a good case for the non-appointment of a committee. He had been told, for instance, by good authorities that more valuable pine was consumed every year in the Province by fire than was sold and went into the revenues of the Government. It was only reasonable that the Government should take the House into its confidence in matters of this kind and that remedies for such evils should be found, if possible, and the best way of considering and discussing this and similar matters was through the agency of a committee.

Mr. MEREDITH said he would say a few words in reply to the hon. gentleman the Commissioner of Crown Lands. He claimed again that the terms of his resolution involved no condemnation of the Government and said the hon. Commissioner, having started out with the object of refusing this committee, had simply pressed into his speech every argument, good or bad, that he could think of, and urged it against the resolution. He claimed that the Commissioner's figures as to the amount of timber in the Province—put by him at sixty-nine thousand millions of feet—were much exaggerated, and quoted figures of Mr. Little, of Montreal, to show that they were estimated by him at only thirty-five hundred million square feet. He claimed also the Government were inconsistent in declaring in favor of the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the mining resources of the Province, and refusing an inquiry into the timber resources, although they had claimed that the Commissioner of Crown Lands was particularly well able to deal with and manage that department. He insisted that the Government was acting arbitrarily, and that it was compelling the House, through its majority, to do as it pleased. This, however, he held, was only in accordance with the usual practice of the Government.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said the hon. leader of the Opposition had at last at any rate succeeded in introducing a feeling of partisanship into the debate. He denied the statement of

the hon. gentleman that the Government attempted to rule the House. The Government had always acted on the principle that the House was master of the Government and not the Government of the House, and they were acting on that principle now. But the leader of the Opposition would like to change that position. He would like himself to control the Government just because he was leader of the Opposition; and instead of the Government attempting to force the House to vote in a certain direction, it was the leader of the Opposition who was endeavoring to do so. The House would vote on this matter as intelligent men, and if they considered the hon. gentleman who led the Opposition had made out his case, they would vote for the appointment of the committee asked for. The hon. Commissioner closed by showing that the Mr. Little, from whom the leader of the Opposition got his statistics, was a very untrustworthy authority, and gave as an instance of his lack of accuracy the fact that he had prophesied in 1876, in a pamphlet which he held in his hand, that every foot of pine this side of the Rocky Mountains would have disappeared by twelve years from that time. This present year happened to be twelve years after the date in question, and the prophecy had evidently been false. He had foretold, also, that there would be no pine left in Michigan six years later than 1876. Twelve years had passed by, and lumbering was still profitable in that State. These glaring inaccuracies in his pamphlet rendered the remainder of his statistics entirely untrustworthy. (Applause.)

Mr. Creighton's amendment to the amendment, favoring the resolution so far as it related to timber, was then put to the vote, with the following result:—

YEAS.—Blyth, Clancy, Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Craig, Creighton, Fell, French, Hess, Ingram, Kerns, Lees, Marter, Meacham, Meredith, Metcalfe, Miller, Monk, Morgan, Ostrom, Preston, Burke, Stewart, Tooley, Whitney, Wilmot, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—27.

NAYS.—Armstrong, Allan, Awrey, Balfour, Balfour, Bishop, Blezard, Chisholm, Clarke (Northumberland), Clarke (Wellington), Conmee, Dack, Drury, Dryden, Ferguson, Field, Fraser, Freeman, Garson, Gibson (Hamilton), Gilmour, Gould, Graham, Guthrie, Harcourt, Hardy, Lyon, McAndrew, McKay, McLaughlin, McMahon, Mack, Master, Morin, Mowat, Murray, Nairn, O'Connor, Pacaud, Phelps, Preston, Rayside, Robillard, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Smith, Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Waters, Widdifield, Wood (Brant)—52.

The pairs in yesterday's division were Bronson and Hammill, Hilliard and Hudson, Evanturel and Cruess. The absentees on the Government side were Pardee and Leys, and on the Opposition E. F. Clarke and Biggar.

Hon. Mr. Fraser's amendment to the original motion favoring the appointment of a Royal Commission was then put to the vote, with the result of 79 "ayes" and no "nays," the members of the Opposition voting with the Government.

Mr. MEREDITH said that this action on the part of the Opposition showed how entirely unpartisan had been all their dealings in this matter.

Hon. Mr. HARDY said the hon. gentleman had never given a vote that required so little explanation. (Laughter.)

### MAINTENANCE OF DESERTED WIVES.

The Attorney-General's bill respecting the maintenance of wives deserted by their husbands was considered in committee, where it was amended by reducing the maximum allowance to the wife from \$10 a week to \$5 a week. Mr. Gibson, of Hamilton, thought that women would be deterred from taking proceedings under the Act by the fact that the tribunal was the Police Court. Mr. Wood, of Hastings, thought the Police Court was the best possible tribunal. Mr. Meredith and Mr. O'Connor opposed the reference to the Police Court. Mr. Balfour observed that all the op-

ponents of the bill were lawyers, and thought there must be some question of fees involved. Mr. Craig said that although not a lawyer he was opposed to the bill. Mr. French thought that whenever the question of the wife's chastity was raised the case should be tried by the County Judge in the first instance. The Attorney-General declined to abandon the Police Court as a tribunal, but said he would consider Mr. French's suggestion. The bill was then reported.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After recess, Mr. Hardy's bills relating to the payment of the expenses of the Canada Temperance Act, the office of Sheriff and the salaries and expenses of police magistrates, were considered in committee and reported.

Mr. Hardy's bill relating to the dissolution of united counties was read the second time.

The House concurred in a number of the resolutions reported from Committee of Supply.

### SOLEMNISATION OF MARRIAGES.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved the second reading of the bill respecting the solemnisation of marriages. A clergyman reading the statute on this subject had noticed that it was necessary that a marriage should be solemnised by a clergyman resident in the Province, and had been considerably alarmed by doubts as to the validity of certain marriages in which this condition had not been complied with. The bill made valid marriages solemnised by clergymen not residents, and enacted that in future the ceremony might be performed by any clergyman resident in Canada.

The bill was read the second time.

The House went into Committee of Supply. On the item \$13,445 for Ontario Agricultural College and \$139,886 for Experimental Farm, a discussion took place, in which Messrs. Clancy, Ross (Huron), Creighton, Awrey, Meredith, Waters and Armstrong took part.

The item passed.

Mr. Balfour's bill to amend the Municipal Act was read a second time.

The House adjourned at 10.30.

### COMMITTEES.

The following select, standing and special committees will meet this day (Thursday) in the rooms and at the hours severally below mentioned:—

Public Accounts, 10 a.m., Treasurer's office.

Municipal, 10.30 a.m., room 16.

Special (re sales of chattels), 2 p.m., room 12.

Special (re inspection of boilers), 10.30 a.m., room 12.

Sub-committee (re toll roads) 9 a.m., room 16.

### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Ross (Middlesex)—On Friday next—Resolution, That this House approve of a certain Order in Council, bearing date the 30th day of November, 1887, authorising the purchase of a site for Upper Canada College.