

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Sixth Parliament, Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

THURSDAY, March 15, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—

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

To regulate the closing of shops and the hours of labor therein for children and young persons—Mr. Fraser.

To enable Trustees of High Schools or Collegiate Institutes to expropriate lands for High School purposes—Mr. Ross (Middlesex).

To amend the Act respecting the Income and Property of the University of Toronto, University College, and Upper Canada College—Mr. Ross (Middlesex).

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

To incorporate the Village of Markdale—Mr. Rorke.

To enable the Corporation of the County of Perth to sell certain lands—Mr. Ballantyne.

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

UNIVERSITY FUNDS.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex) moved that this House concurs in an Order in Council bearing date the seventh day of March instant, authorising the expenditure by the Trustees of the University of Toronto of the sum of \$30,000 out of the permanent funds of the said University, for the erection of a suitable building for the Science Department. The hon. gentleman explained that the Trustees of the University had recommended this expenditure, and the University Senate at a subsequent meeting had sanctioned it. The Executive Council had also sanctioned it, and only the concurrence of the House was now needed. It was unnecessary for him to point out why this expenditure had become necessary. It was well known the Science Department of the University had gone forward rapidly of late, and in its interests it had become necessary, and it had been decided to erect a brown stone building in front of Moss Hall. The confirmation of this action would be only moving along the lines of last session in regard to the University.

The motion passed.

FREE LIBRARIES, ETC.

Mr. WOOD (Brant) moved for an order of the House for a return showing the location of

each Mechanics' Institute, Farmers' Institute and free library in the Province, with the number of subscribers or members of each and the amount of money annually expended by the Province for their support. Also, the number of school boards that during the last five years preceding the withdrawal of Government grant for purchase of libraries made application to have sums voted for the purchase of books for school libraries supplemented by Education Department, with the amount of money thus annually expended by the Legislature during the period named. Also, copies of all correspondence between the Education Department and trustees of school boards or other persons respecting the question of aid in purchasing libraries since the withdrawal of such aid. The hon. gentleman referred to the great good done by Farmers' Institutes, and thought it would be a good thing if they could get some assistance from the Government in the way of establishing libraries in connection with them. It was desirable, he thought, also, that they should receive more reports from the Government. Such reports would be of great interest, and would enable the large proportion of people interested in agriculture to gain a knowledge of many things of which they would be otherwise ignorant. He advocated generally an extension of the system of free libraries in country districts, which were not included as a rule, he contended, in the districts benefited by Mechanics' Institutes.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex) thought Mechanics' Institutes were, as a rule, patronised considerably by others than those living in the municipality in which they existed. He thought the extension of the system of Mechanics' Institutes was really the best way of meeting the difficulty suggested by the hon. gentleman. He would point out the noteworthy fact that of the total of 330,000 books issued last year by Mechanics' Institutes, 171,000 were works of fiction; and it was a question worthy of some thought how much further the Government might go in aiding these or similar institutions, the result being as he had stated. The suggestion of the area of distribution of Governmental reports being largely extended would no doubt be considered by the Minister of Agriculture. He had no objection to the motion passing.

Mr. CREIGHTON spoke warmly of the benefits resulting from Mechanics' Institutes, and was glad this motion had been brought forward. He suggested that it should be amended so as to include the annual expenditures of Farmers' Institutes.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Huron) was glad to hear the Farmers' Institutes so highly spoken of. Some of them had grown so large that they were able to establish libraries of their own, and were thinking of establishing a branch in each of the different municipalities of whatever ridings they might exist in. He agreed with his hon. friend, the Minister of Education, that the matter of sending Governmental reports to the Farmers' Institutes should receive the attention of the new Minister of Agriculture. There was a field for good work in that direction. It would cost a good deal, however, and that would, of course, have to be taken into account.