

THE LEGISLATORS.

ANOTHER UNEVENTFUL DAY IN THE LOCAL HOUSE.

Report of the Minister of Public Works—Standing Committees—Members Busy Drafting Measures—A Couple of Deputations—Notes of the Day—Woman Suffrage.

The Assembly met punctually at 3 p.m. yesterday, and having sanctioned the order of business adjourned fifteen minutes afterwards. Nothing new was developed, save the introduction of a couple of bills by private members. There were lots of petitions on all kinds of subjects, the Assessment Act coming in for a fair share of attention. The first message was received from his Honor touching the supplies, the intimation of which gave an opportunity to the visitors in the gallery to see how loyally such messages are greeted by Parliament. Then the House formally went into committee of supply and of ways and means, and having despatched that part of the day's work the Speaker took the chair and the House adjourned until 3 p.m. to-day. The members are nearly all now in their seats, the only conspicuous absentee so far being Mr. Evanturel.

Petitions were presented by:—  
Mr. Ross, of Huron—To amend the Act governing hawkers and pedlars, from Huron County Council; also, in reference to road-making and drainage; also, for amendments to Public and High Schools Act.

Mr. H. E. Clarke—To amend the Factory Act, from the District Assembly of the Knights of Labor.

Mr. Murray—To empower township and village municipalities to sell for taxes lands of non-residents as in towns and cities, from Renfrew County Council.

Mr. Balfour—To amend the game law so as to allow spring shooting of ducks in southwest Ontario; also, from the town of Amherstburg, praying for the passage of an Act to consolidate the debt of the said town; also, from Pelee Island, praying for amendments to the Pelee Incorporation Act; and from the same place in opposition to the said amendments.

Mr. Leys—From the Trades and Labor Council.

Numerous petitions were presented asking amendments to the Assessment Act, viz:—By Mr. Master, from Galt; Col. Biggar, from Port Elgin and Southampton; Mr. Graham, from Alvinston; Mr. Dack, from Chesley; Col. Morin, from Fort Erie, Thorold and Chippewa; Mr. Field, from Cobourg; Mr. Gibson, from Huron; Mr. Clancy, from Chatham; Mr. Feli, from Victoria; Mr. Kerns, from Halton.

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

To amend an Act to impose a tax on dogs and for the protection of sheep—Mr. French.

To amend the Ditches and Watercourses Act—Mr. Waters.

To amend the Homestead Exemption Act—Mr. Balfour.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EXPENDED ON THE DIFFERENT PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Hon. Mr. Fraser laid upon the table the report of the Public Works Department. The report contains the usual statistical tables. That giving the number of miles of railway in the Province at the time of Confederation and the number of miles since constructed is of particular interest. There were 1,455 miles of railway in Ontario at the time of Confederation, and there have been built since Confederation 4,153.23, while there are at present under construction or contract 1,142.5 miles. These are summarised as follows:—

	Miles.
G. T. R.—Toronto & Ottawa line from Peterboro' to Casselman.....	175
C. P. R.—Don branch main line to Toronto.....	5
C. P. R.—Detroit extension, London to Windsor.....	112
C. P. R.—Guelph branch, Campbellville to Guelph.....	15
C. P. R.—South Ontario Pacific railway, Toronto to Hamilton.....	40
Cobourg, Peterborough & Marmora railway, Rice Lake to Chemong Lake.....	13
Napanee, Tamworth & Quebec railway, Napanee to Tweed.....	20
Napanee, Tamworth & Harrowsmith branch, Yarkor to Harrowsmith.....	7
Ontario & Sault Ste. Marie railway, Sault Ste. Marie to Spanish River.....	125
Irontdale, Bancroft & Ottawa railway, Kinnmount to Bancroft.....	40

Brockville, Westport & Sault Ste. Marie railway, Brockville to Sault Ste. Marie.....	500
St. Catharines & Niagara Central railway, Niagara Falls to Toronto.....	62.5
Lake Erie, Essex & Detroit railway, Walkerville to Kingsville.....	30

Total miles..... 1,142.5

Another table showed the amounts on the various public institutions in the way of building and repairs during the past official year and the year previous, and in a third column the total so expended since Confederation.

The figures perhaps of most interest are those relating to the new Parliament buildings in Queen's Park, which are summarised as follows:—

Total of all money expended to date.....	1886.....	1887.....	1888.....	TOTAL.....
Lionel Yorke, contract for masonry.....	\$6,000 00	\$141,627 39	\$96,726 03	\$244,353 37
" " carpentry and iron work.....	.....	.....	8,531 41	8,531 41
" " bricks furnished.....	.....	5,433 05	6,604 03	12,037 08
St. Lawrence Foundry Co., iron work.....	.....	.....	10,019 24	10,019 24
Payments to Mr. Waite, Architect.....	.....	7,530 00	5,000 00	12,500 00
Other expenditures, advertising, etc.....	8,765 04	10,117 85	2,332 60	21,205 49
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>\$14,765 04</b>	<b>\$164,578 29</b>	<b>\$129,233 25</b>	<b>\$308,616 58</b>
<b>Total of all money expended to date.....</b>	<b>\$617,293 12</b>			

The moneys expended on other public buildings during the year were as follows:—

Government House.....	\$ 1,987 38
Insane Asylum—Toronto.....	19,818 60
London.....	44,948 83
Hamilton.....	85,257 57
Kingston.....	6,545 63
(branch).....	55 83
Asylum for Idiots, Orillia.....	47,190 51
Deaf and Dumb Institution, Belleville.....	5,150 17
Blind Asylum, Brantford.....	3,687 30
Reformatory for Boys, Penetanguishene.....	8,670 76
Central Prison, Toronto.....	4,310 73
Agricultural College Guelph.....	7,363 96
School of Practical Science (new building).....	1,701 59
Mercer Reformatory.....	5,643 82
Educational Department—Normal and Model Schools, Toronto.....	31,963 26
Educational Department—Normal and Model Schools, Ottawa.....	1,407 15
Osgoode Hall.....	2,550 05
Agricultural Hall, Toronto.....	324 30
Brock Monument, Queenston Heights.....	197 90
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$276,775 14</b>

Another total shows the amounts paid by the Government for drainage debentures purchased by them on the recommendation of the Public Works Department during the year, the total footing up to \$47,584 92.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

A select committee of eleven members was appointed to act with the Speaker in the control and management of the library, to be composed as follows:—The Attorney-General and Messrs. Clancy, Clarke (Wellington), French, Gibson (Huron), Harcourt, Meredith, O'Connor, Ross (Middlesex) and Wood (Hastings).

The usual special committee of twelve members was appointed to prepare and report lists of members to compose the several select standing committees. The committee consists of Messrs. Awrey, Clarke (Wellington), H. E. Clarke (Toronto), Creighton, Dryden, Fraser, Gibson (Huron), Hardy, Meredith, Monk, Ross (Huron) and Wood (Hastings).

NOTES OF THE DAY.

ITEMS GATHERED IN THE LOBBIES AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS.

The Government and their supporters will meet in caucus at 1.30 p.m. to-day.

Col. Biggar was in the House during the sitting, looking much improved in health since his arrival in the city.

The following paid a visit to the House yesterday, the Liberal Commoners being cordially welcomed by their friends in the Assembly:—Dr. Brien, M.P., South Essex; James Sutherland, M.P., North Oxford; James Rowand, M.P., West Bruce;

T. Hawke, editor of The Moncton Inscript.

Mr. Balfour's Homestead Act proposes to exempt real estate from debts up to \$1,000 after the passage of the bill. The provisions of the law can be taken advantage of by a man during his life, by a widow during her widowhood and by minors until of age. It is said that this law, hedged in with safeguards, prevails in seven-eighths of the American States. The husband can mortgage the land by the consent of his wife.

The following are the notices of motion:—Mr. Sprague—Bill to amend the Municipal Amendment Act. Mr. O'Connor—Bill to amend the Assessment Act; also bill to amend the Act Respecting Assignments and Preferences by Insolvent Persons. Mr. Miller—Friday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act. Mr. Dack—Thursday next—Bill to amend the Act respecting Snow Fences. Mr. Ingram—Thursday next—Bill to amend the Assessment Act. Mr. Harcourt—Thursday next—Bill to amend the University Act.

There were exactly eight vacant chairs in the Assembly yesterday when Mr. Speaker declared that the House stood adjourned. The Attorney-General was not in his seat, presumably out of respect to the memory of his brother-in-law, the late John Fraser, of Kingston, whose funeral was announced to take place yesterday afternoon. Mr. Meredith was also out of his seat attending to a case at Osgoode Hall, and in the absence of his lieutenant, Mr. Creighton, the Opposition was led by Mr. French. The following took their seats for the first time:—Mr. Murray, of North Renfrew; Col. Morin, of Welland; Mr. Rayside, of Gengarry; Mr. Robillard, of Russell; Mr. H. P. O'Connor, of South Bruce; Dr. Preston, of Leeds, and Mr. Fell, of East Victoria.

Mr. W. B. Wood, of North Brant, is urged by many of his friends in the House to reintroduce his bill compelling Municipal councils to furnish the ratepayers with a financial statement of the doings of the year on or before Dec. 15. Some of his friends request him to amend the bill by providing for a complete audit, their argument being that the electors would be in a better position to pronounce on the merits of their servants when they appeal for reelection at the beginning of the year. Mr. Wood has not yet made up his mind as to the course he will pursue, but he says that a long acquaintance with the working of municipal institutions has convinced him that the proposed law would be in the interests of the public.

The first deputation of the session put in an appearance from the Town of Woodstock yesterday. They were A. W. Francis, Reeve; M. Douglas, 1st Deputy-Reeve; W. Pott, Councillor; G. C. Eden, clerk, and James Sutherland, M.P. They asked the Attorney-General to amend the Waterworks Act of last session in such a way that towns of 9,000 inhabitants can take advantage of its provisions. The law, as now, applies to cities of 50,000 of a population or upwards, and is to the effect that Councils may extend the water service throughout new streets and issue debentures to meet the expense without consulting the ratepayers. The deputation were assured by Mr. Mowat that the subject would be placed before his colleagues, and he stated that he was fully alive to the progressive spirit manifested by the citizens of Woodstock.

The following incident of the working of the Wills Act was told THE GLOBE representative yesterday by a prominent member of the Government side of the House:—A farmer living in Lambton died some years ago, leaving a considerable amount of property, which reverted to his only daughter, whose mother was deceased. The father made no will, and some time ago the daughter also died without making any will. As the law stood the property was divided between the relatives on the mother's side and those on the father's side, share and share alike. In this case the grievance is that the mother having died a year after her marriage, did nothing towards accumulating the savings which, by the law, went to her relatives. The member who told of the affair will take steps to amend the law, so that property as above situated will be more equitably distributed.

Mr. J. P. Whitney, of Dundas, states that the people of Eastern Ontario, especially those in united counties, complain of the inconveniences attached to the registration of chattel mortgages. The law is that these instruments shall be entered in the office of the County Court clerk, and as those seats are very remote from business men in certain parts of the united counties, considerable expense and worry are incurred in legal registration. Mr. Whitney proposes to amend the law bearing on that