

THE ONTARIO HOUSE.

A BIG BATCH OF PETITIONS PRESENTED YESTERDAY.

The Voters' List Act Goes Through Committee Substantially Unchanged—Several Important Bills Introduced and Other Measures Given Notice of—Notes of the Day.

FEBRUARY 5TH, 1889.

There was a full House to-day when the doors were thrown open. It was an especially heavy day for petitions, the labor organisations coming very strongly to the front.

The petitions presented were as follows:—

By Mr. Snider—From Woolwich and Wellesley Townships, re municipal fire insurance.

By Mr. Ferguson—From Kent County Council, asking that certain county officials may be appointed by County Councils; also from Dresden and Waterford Village Councils, asking for abolition of exemptions; also from Bridgetown Town Council, asking for a registration office in East Kent, and in the town named.

By Mr. Leys—From Toronto Typographical Union, for publication of assessment rolls; also from Corporation of Toronto, praying for legislation respecting the conversion of the city debt.

By Mr. Gilmour—From West Toronto Junction property-owners, asking for extension of limits of the place named.

By Mr. Garson—From the Corporation of St. Catharines, for power to borrow \$30,000 to raise money for local improvements; also from Merriton Village Council, for abolition of tax exemptions.

By Mr. French—From Kemptville Village Corporation, in favor of abolition of exemptions.

By H. E. Clarke—From Typographical Union, respecting inspection of engines and boilers.

By E. F. Clarke—From the Toronto Trades and Labor Council; from Geo. Creighton and others, and from Hand-in-Hand Assembly 5,743, K. of L., asking for publication of assessment rolls; also from the latter, asking that all buildings wherein labor is performed may be included in the operations of the Factory Act; from Geo. A. Harrap and others, and from the Toronto Typographical Union, asking the same; from D. W. Lynn and others, and from D. A. 125, K. of L., praying that the allowance now made to universities and colleges be transferred to the Public schools, so that free books may be supplied to the pupils attending the same; from Geo. A. Harrap and others and from the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, asking for the passage of an Act for the inspection of stationary boilers and engines, and the examination of engineers in charge of the same; from D. A. 125, K. of L., and from James Rankin and others, praying for an amendment to the Assessment Act, so as to provide that dwelling houses shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of \$600; from Toronto City Council, asking for amendments to the Municipal Act, the Assessment Act and the Public Schools Acts; and from F. G. Tait and others, asking for the \$600 exemption.

By G. B. Smith—From York County Council, asking for an Act to confirm their title to York roads.

By Mr. Fraser—From Brockville Corporation, asking for an Act to authorise the issue of debentures for drainage and other purposes.

By the Attorney-General—From Oxford County Council and Woodstock Corporation, asking for amendments to the Municipal Act; from Oxford County Council, asking an amendment to the Assessment Act.

By Mr. Drury—From Simcoe County Council, asking an amendment to the Municipal Act and also for the appointment of Ontario county officials by County Councils; and from the Councils of Penetanguishene and Midland, in favor of the \$600 exemption.

By Mr. J. M. Gibson—From Hamilton Typographical Union 129, in favor of publication of assessment rolls; concerning university statutes; in favor of the \$600 exemption and concerning other matters.

By Mr. Harcourt—From Haldimand County Council, for an amendment to the

Assessment Act.

By Mr. Stewart—From Dufferin County Council, asking for an amendment to the Municipal Act.

By Mr. Stratton—From Lakefield Village Council, asking for the abolition of exemptions.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

An Act respecting the examination of engineers and inspection of boilers—Mr. Garson.

An Act to confer certain powers on the Toronto Board of Trade—Mr. Leys.

An Act to legalise a by-law of the Town of Galt—Mr. Master.

An Act to amend the Act respecting the study of anatomy—Mr. McKay.

An Act to amend the Act respecting voters' lists—Mr. Ostrom.

A bill to incorporate the Toronto Belt Line Railway Company—Mr. Gilmour.

An Act to incorporate the Inland Marine Mutual Insurance Association—Mr. Leys.

An Act to confirm a conveyance made by the Town of Barrie to her Majesty the Queen—Mr. Drury.

An Act respecting a certain railway debenture debt of the united Townships of Laxton, Digby and Longford; also an Act respecting certain railway debenture debts of Somerville Township—Mr. Fell.

A bill respecting St. Jude's church, Oakville.

An Act to amend the Act incorporating the Township of Pelee—Mr. Balfour.

OTHER BUSINESS.

On motion of Mr. Fraser the names of Messrs. McAndrew and Willoughby were added to the Railway Committee.

The House then rose and listened respectfully while Mr. Speaker read the acknowledgment by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the address presented to him by the House. This was very brief, and as soon almost as the tardiest member was on his feet it was time to sit down again.

Then the House went into committee on Mr. Fraser's bill respecting voters' lists, Mr. Harcourt in the chair. The bill was rapidly pushed through this somewhat tiresome but withal necessary stage, Mr. Meredith's numerous criticisms being ably dealt with by Mr. Fraser, and at 5 o'clock the House adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Mr. Ferguson—On Thursday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act; also, on Thursday next, bill to amend the Drainage Act.

Mr. Lyon—On Thursday next—Bill to amend the Act respecting the establishment of municipal institutions in the Districts of Algoma, Parry Sound, Muskoka and Nipissing; also, on Thursday next, bill respecting the establishment of municipal institutions in the Districts of Algoma, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Thunder Bay and Rainy River.

Mr. E. F. Clarke—On Thursday next—Bill to amend the Public Schools Act; also, on Thursday next, bill to amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Gibson (Huron)—Address for a record of copies of all correspondence relating to the Crown Land Improvement Fund before the Government of Ontario and that of the Government of the Province.

Mr. Andrew—On Friday next—Bill to amend the Act respecting Division of the Province; also, on Friday next, bill to amend the Act respecting mortgages and sales of personal property.

Mr. Waters—On Friday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Ostrom—On Thursday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

The Attorney-General—Bill to provide for the oaths to be taken under the Manhood Suffrage Act; also, bill for the administration of justice in certain cases; also, bill for amending certain provisions in the laws for the registration of deeds; also, bill to amend the practice in certain cases under the Act respecting land titles; also, bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Cruess—On Thursday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Meredith—On Thursday next—Inquiry of Ministry—Whether the attention of the Government has been called to the recent decision of the High Court of Justice, holding that certain provisions of the Act of last session, intituled "An Act to Provide Against Frauds" in the supplying of milk to cheese or butter manufactories, are beyond the powers of the Legislature of Ontario to enact? Whether it is intended to acquiesce in that decision or to appeal therefrom.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

ITEMS GATHERED AROUND THE HOUSE AND FROM THE DEPARTMENTS.

The Private Bills Committee has been

summoned to meet for active work next Tuesday morning.

The Private Bills Committee met in the morning and organised by re-electing Hon. J. M. Gibson to the position of chairman.

Mayor Clarke was in his seat for the first time this session during the afternoon. He discharged his preliminary legislative duties by presenting a handful of petitions on various grievances.

Mr. Graham's amendment to the Municipal Act consists of defining precisely how and when Councils shall be held responsible for accidents on highways and bridges situated within municipalities.

At the first meeting of the Committee on Standing Orders nine petitions in favor of private bills were considered and ordered to be reported to the House in due form. The time for receiving petitions on private bills was extended one week.

Mr. John Pearson, ex-Warden of the County of Bruce, and Mr. John Douglass, the present Warden, visited the House yesterday. The ex-Warden and Warden rendered signal service to the Liberal party during many a hard-fought contest in North Bruce. They are in the city attending the meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute.

Mayor Clarke, H. E. Clarke and John Leys, the city representatives, City Solicitor Biggar, Ald. McMillan and City Treasurer Coady had a long consultation with the Attorney-General during the afternoon regarding the proposed consolidation of the city debt and the civic legislation to be brought before the House this session. The interview was private, but it was understood that Ald. McMillan succeeded in putting the requirements of the city in a favorable light and that Mr. Mowat was impressed with the justice of the claims set forth.

Mr. Stratton is feeling his way towards introducing a few important bills before the session is much older. The member for West Peterborough believes that it is not in the interest of the Corporations of towns that one man should occupy a dual position. Experience has taught that in many cases a member of the Town Council occupying a position on the Public or High School Board must sacrifice the interests of either, and therefore Mr. Stratton proposes to legislate away dual representation in municipalities. He will also introduce a bill giving Town Councils the power to pass a by-law doing away with wards and giving the whole electorate a voice in the election of each member of the Council.

Mr. Waters' notice of motion, in reference to cheap money for farmers, does not appear to be seriously considered by members spoken to on both sides of the House. The discussion of the question, however, will likely bring out some of the difficulties which farmers have to contend against in a country highly protected and restricted from sending its products to natural markets. That there is an agitation towards relieving the financial embarrassments of farmers by getting the Government of the Province to borrow and advance money at a low rate of interest, is looked upon by thinking members of the House as evidence that the agricultural industry is not as prosperous as Restrictionists would make us believe.

"Plumping" at municipal elections will in all likelihood come before the House this session in the form of a bill declaring that such a ballot will be declared spoiled. At least a prominent Liberal told THE GLOBE after the adjournment to-day that he intended taking the initiative on this question at an early day. The abolition of "plumping" would be as near compulsory voting as any indirect legislation could bring about, and there are not a few members who believe that the time has arrived when a man to whom the franchise has been given, as a sacred trust, should be compelled to exercise it. It is only reasonable, they say, to ask every citizen to mark his interest in his country's welfare by going to the poll, if physically able, and there declare by vote on what principles he desires the nation to be governed.

Several of the supporters of Mr. Awrey's proposal to abolish the grant to the Provincial Exhibition have made inquiry into the feeling of the House on the subject. They claim that the Assembly will commit itself to the resolution by a considerable majority, many of the most influential farmers in the House having indicated their intention of supporting it. Those opposed to the proposition, amongst them, it is believed, the Minister of Agriculture, will make a strong defence in favor of the Provincial Exhibition, and will not tamely submit to the grant being withdrawn without a resolute and determined resistance. As members on both sides of the House are divided in their opinions regarding the merits of an association admitted to have in the past revolutionised all phases of agriculture, the debate will be one of the interesting events of the session. It is probable that the chief fea-