

THE LEGISLATURE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF HOSPITALS.

A Short and Uneventful Sitting—Large Number of Absentees—A Question of Privilege—Petitions. Deputations and Notices of Motion—The Voters' Lists Bill.

FEBRUARY 11th, 1889.

It was a very slim House to-day, and proportionately thinner on the Government side of the House than on that of the Opposition, and once or twice there were actually more followers of Mr. Meredith than of Mr. Mowat in the House. But the Opposition missed their chance and it went forever.

Before the orders of the day were called Mr. Meredith rose to a question of privilege, complaining that the Consolidated Statutes could not be obtained readily from the library. The reporters, much to the consternation of the amiable Sergeant-at-Arms, were in their places, and, notwithstanding his nods and ominous threats, retained their places, thus giving the Constitution a wrench from which it is to be hoped it will recover. The Attorney-General replied that he had given orders to have a dozen spare copies in the library, but if that was not enough he would see that more would be placed at the disposal of members.

FIRST READINGS.

The following bills were read a first time:—

Respecting actions at law—Mr. French. To amend the Ontario Shop Regulation Act—Mr. Fraser.

To amend the Act respecting mortgages and sale of personal property—Mr. McAndrew.

Respecting the Town of Port Arthur—Mr. Connec.

VOTERS' LIST ACT.

The House then went into committee of the whole on Mr. Fraser's Voters' List Bill, which, upon the whole, received a favorable criticism from the Opposition. Mr. Meredith took exception to the following clause in the bill on the ground that it might be used by unscrupulous persons to strike legally entitled voters off the lists:—

Any person complaining, or any person in respect of the insertion or omission of whose name a complaint is made, shall, if resident within the municipality the list of which is the subject of complaint, or within the municipality in which the court is held, upon being served with a subpoena or order therein, obey the same without being tendered or paid any allowance for his expenses; and the subpoena or order shall be deemed to have been sufficiently served upon any such person under the provisions of this section.

Mr. Meredith offered an amendment, but on Mr. Fraser's suggestion the committee rose without coming to any conclusion.

MR. INGRAM'S BILL.

Mr. Ingram's bill to amend the Assessment Act was read a second time and referred to committee.

ASSIGNMENTS AND PREFERENCES.

Mr. French asked whether the attention of the Attorney-General has been drawn to the recent decision of Anderson v. Glass confirming the power of practically evading the provisions of the Act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent persons which, under section 6, requires an assignment to be made to the sheriff or to a person resident in the county, and is any remedy proposed.

The Attorney-General replied that his attention had been called to the matter in question, and the Government was not ready with any remedy.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR—INTERESTING FIGURES.

The Provincial Inspector presented the 19th annual report of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities on the hospitals of the Province. The number of cases treated in all the hospitals in the past year was 8,292, being an increase of 770 over the preceding year. Ten years ago the number treated was 4,612. The increase in the number treated last year over that of the preceding year is not confined to one or two hospitals, as the returns show that, with the exception of three, each of the hospitals had more persons under treatment than in 1887. The three exceptions are the City Hospital, Hamilton, with a decrease of ten; the General Hospital, London, with a decrease of 70, and the St.

Catharines Hospital with a decrease of twelve.

Another table shows that the collective stay of the patients in the various hospitals in 1888 was equal to 252,216 days, as against 242,410 in 1887, an increase not proportionate to the larger number of patients, as the average stay per patient dropped from 32.25 days to 30.65. Other tables show the manner in which the amounts the Legislature will be asked to vote as grants to the hospitals are made up. The following statement is a summary of these tables, and shows the sums which will be asked for each hospital, as well as the total:—

General Hospital, Toronto.....	\$22,832 44
City Hospital, Hamilton.....	6,486 90
General Hospital, Kingston.....	4,318 95
Hotel Dieu, Kingston.....	2,251 22
General Protestant Hospital, Ottawa.....	4,504 90
Roman Catholic Hospital, Ottawa.....	5,566 23
House of Mercy Lying-in Hospital, Ottawa.....	1,914 82
General Hospital, London.....	4,918 57
General and Marine Hospital, St. Catharines.....	1,949 47
General Hospital, Guelph.....	3,048 42
St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.....	2,323 54
General Hospital, Pembroke.....	1,053 30
General Hospital, Mattawa.....	1,231 20
J. H. Stratford Hospital, Branford....	2,319 81
St. Joseph's Hospital, Port Arthur....	1,231 75
Belleville Hospital, Belleville.....	1,055 18
Total.....	\$67,016 70

The amount asked for in 1887 was \$63,674 58, or \$3,342 12 less than the above. Other tables furnish details of the cost of maintaining the various hospitals. The daily cost per inmate in 1888 rose to \$68 45 per day, being the highest rate for ten years. The proportion of the Government grant to the total maintenance expenditure remains as in 1887, and varies with the different hospitals, being as low as 32.24 per cent. in the case of the Belleville Hospital, and as high as 54.83 per cent. in the case of Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The report for the Toronto General Hospital shows that 221 persons were under treatment on the 1st of October, 1887, and that 2,526 were admitted during the year. There were 182 births in the hospital during the year. Of this total 2,456 were discharged, 237 died and 236 remained under treatment on the 30th September, 1888. Of the 2,929 patients treated, 176 males and 62 females were inmates of the Andrew Mercer Eye and Ear Reformatory, and 383 in Burnside Lying-in branch, the latter number including 107 male and 75 female children born in the institution. The total were divided thus in respect to sex:—1,697 male, 1,232 female. As respects to religious denominations:—Protestant, 2,302; Roman Catholic, 604; other religions or not known, 23. In respect to nationality:—Canadian, 1,358; English, 736; Irish, 495; Scotch, 140; United States, 101; other countries, 99. In respect to places received from:—City of Toronto (including 182 infants born), 2,174; County of York, 121; other counties of the Province, 618; United States, 12; other countries, 4. The revenue of the hospital derived thus:—Province of Ontario, \$883 91; City of Toronto, in payment of patients' maintenance, \$15,219 20; County of York, ditto, \$678 90; other municipalities of the Province, \$701 70; paying themselves, \$15,989 41; income from property belonging to hospital trust, \$35; subscriptions, bequests, etc., \$3,640; total, \$33,640.

The Provincial Inspector also presented his report on the Elgin County

House of Industry for the year ending 31st October, 1888.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The Attorney-General—On Wednesday next—Bill for securing evidence of the identity of persons married; also, bill respecting appeals in certain cases of summary convictions by magistrates; also, bill respecting the limited liability of incorporated companies.

Mr. Bronson—On Wednesday next—Bill to amend the Timber Slide Companies' Act; also, to amend the Act for the Protection of Game and Fur-Bearing Animals; also, to amend the Municipal Act; also, to amend the Act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent debtors.

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

Mr. Clancy—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

The Private Bills Committee and the Standing Orders Committee will meet to-day at 11 a.m.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

ITEMS GATHERED ROUND THE HOUSE AND FROM THE DEPARTMENTS.

Mrs. McDonell and Mrs. Rockwell, of Kingston, were in the reception room during the afternoon interviewing members in the interests of Mr. Waters' Women's Suffrage Bill. Members are exceedingly reticent regarding the course they intend to pursue, but competent judges of the feeling of the House say that the bill will be subjected to considerable hostility and criticism, which will prove dangerous to its passage. Mr. Waters, however, is hopeful.

Messrs. David Hastings, C. Miller and E. Meehan, representing Typographical Union, No. 91, interviewed the Government touching the six hundred dollar exemption on dwelling houses. They asked that the proposed change in the assessment law should be made in the interests of the working classes, but refrained from entering into any argument as to the merits of the question, on the ground that several other deputations addressed the Government on the same subject. They were introduced by Mayor Clarke.

The Government were waited upon after adjournment by the following gentlemen in the interests of the Victoria Industrial School, Mimico:—Sir Daniel Wilson, W. H. Howland, Beverley Jones, F. J. Stewart, W. J. Hendry, Ald. Gillespie and W. H. Huston. They asked the Government to rearrange their grant to the school so that it would be increased by at least \$2,000. Their suggestion was that the Government should give towards the maintenance of the institution 10 cents per day for each pupil in attendance. The claims of the school were minutely set forth by Sir Daniel Wilson and Mr. Howland, their representations, as far as could be seen, making a favorable impression on the Attorney-General and his colleagues.

Mr. Colter, M.P., of Haldimand, called on his Liberal friends in the House during the afternoon and received such a welcome as could not fail to impress him with the great interest manifested in his well-earned victory all over the Province. Mr. Colter left for Ottawa in the evening, expecting to be able to take his seat on Thursday. He does not fear the noise made by the Tories over their subscriptions and protest, believing that whatever boodling took place in Haldimand during the recent election was done by the Tories themselves. The Liberals, he said, fought out the battle on honest appeals to the electorate, and that, too, when they were confronted by hostile returning officers and other neutralising influences. Had a re-count been held it would have resulted in increasing Mr. Colter's majority by at least 20.

A deputation from Typographical Union, No. 91, consisting of Messrs. J. Gilmour, G. Dower and W. Joyce, interviewed Hon. C. F. Fraser with regard to three matters interesting to newspaper printers, viz., the inclusion of printing offices in the schedule of the Factories Act; prohibiting, or at least restricting the employment of young boys on morning newspapers (night work); and enforcing the establishment of effective fire-escapes for use in all composing rooms. The Minister was of opinion that, though not mentioned, printing offices were included in the Factories Act; that the Act relating to employment of child labor in factories would apply to the second, and that regulations with regard to fire-escapes in new buildings were being rigidly enforced. After half an hour's profitable talk over old times—the Minister being himself a printer—the deputation withdrew, thanking Mr. Fraser for his courtesy.