

THE LEGISLATURE.

THE HOUSE DIVIDES FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SESSION.

The Subject Merely a Matter of Detail—Several Important Reports Presented—The Public Accounts—Niagara Park Commissioners' Report.

FEBRUARY 12th, 1889.

The first division of the session is over and the Government is still safe. The matter voted on was not a very important one, being merely a point of detail in connection with Mr. Fraser's bill to amend the Voters' List Act. The division, of course, was forced by Mr. Meredith. The only other incident that distinguished the sitting of the afternoon was the exceedingly large number of bills introduced.

FIRST READINGS.

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

To authorise the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario to admit George McGregor Gardiner to practice as a solicitor—Mr. Leys.

To authorise the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario to admit William Walter Pope to practice in said court as a solicitor. Respecting the City of Toronto—Mr. E. F. Clarke.

Relating to the Land Security Company—Mr. Leys.

To enable the trustees under the will of the late Hon. James Morris to sell real estate—Mr. Fraser.

To amend the Line Fences Act—Mr. Freeman.

Respecting the City of Ottawa—Mr. Bronson.

To incorporate the Waterloo Junction Railway Company—Mr. Master.

To enable the City of Ottawa to issue debentures for water-works and other purposes—Mr. Bronson.

To confirm the title of the Corporation of the County of York to the York roads and the surveys thereof—Mr. G. B. Smith.

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

To amend the Election Act—Mr. Whitney.

To amend the Act respecting seduction—Mr. Whitney.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Wylie.

To incorporate the Town of Bracebridge and for other purposes—Mr. Marter.

Respecting municipal fire insurance—Mr. Suider.

To enable the Presbytery of Guelph to set apart for burial purposes and sell certain glebe lands in the Township of Puslinch—Mr. Guthrie.

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Amherstburg—Mr. Balfour.

To simplify the sale of property held in trust for the Church in the diocese of Toronto—Hon. Mr. Hardy.

Respecting the formation of new counties—Hon. Mr. Hardy.

To amend the Pharmacy Act—Hon. Mr. Gibson.

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

Respecting the supply of electric light for the Town of Woodstock—Mr. Harcourt.

Respecting the London Street Railway Company—Mr. Meredith.

To authorise the Synod of the diocese of Huron to sell certain lands—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the Ontario Insurance Act as respects contracts for licenses—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the Ontario Judicature Act—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the Revised Statutes respecting building societies—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the Revised Statutes respecting arbitrations and references—Mr. Meredith.

Respecting By-law No. 92 of the Town of Gravenhurst—Mr. Marter.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Hon. Mr. Fraser rose to a question of privilege. He had just received a telegram from Brockville telling him that a circular had been issued in that place stating that on Thursday last when the matter of granting aid to charitable institutions came under discussion in the House he (the speaker) had said there was only the one hospital of St. Vincent de Paul existing in Brockville. He did not say anything of the kind. What he did say was that the only hospital there in active operation was the

institution named, but that there was a general hospital in course of erection, or lately completed, which would no doubt be placed on the list as soon as its application was received.

Mr. French and Mr. Meredith each spoke in corroboration of the Commissioner, remarking that his explanation was perfectly accurate.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

The Provincial Secretary presented the annual report of the Minister of Education and the statement of public accounts for the year.

The reports were laid upon the table, and Hon. A. M. Ross at the same moment rose and announced that he hoped to be able to present the estimates to the House on Wednesday and to make his financial statement on Thursday.

VOTERS' LISTS BILL.

The reconsideration of Mr. Fraser's Voters' Lists Bill was resumed by Mr. Meredith, who moved an amendment to section 3 of clause 14 of the Act. The criticism of the Opposition was on the lines stated in yesterday's issue of THE GLOBE, their exceptions being to the power given to the County Judge to deal with appeals. Mr. Gibson (Huron) seemed to voice the sentiments of the Government side of the House by stating that the powers sought to be conferred upon the judge were not stringent enough. Mr. Meredith's amendment was lost on the following division:—

YEAS.—Biggar, Blyth, Clancy, Clarke, E. F. (Toronto), Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Craig, Creighton, Cruess, Fell, French, Hammell, Hess, Hudson, Ingram, Kerns, Lees, Marter, Meacham, Meredith, Metcalf, Miller, Monk, Morgan, Ostrom, Preston, Rorke, Smith (Frontenac), Stewart, Tooley, Whitney, Wilmoughby, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—33.

NAYS.—Allan, Armstrong, Balfour, Ballantyne, Blezard, Bronson, Caldwell, Chisholm, Clarke (Wellington), Conmee, Dack, Dance, Davis, Drury, Ferguson, Field, Fraser, Freeman, Garson, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Gould, Graham, Harcourt, Hardy, Leys, Lyon, McKay, McMahon, Mack, Master, Morin, Mowat, Murray, O'Connor, Pacaud, Phelps, Rayside, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Smith (York), Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Waters, Wood (Brant)—47.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

After the division on the Voters' Lists Act the House went into committee of the whole on the amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Bill. Mr. Fraser and the leader of the Opposition did not seem to agree as to the clause providing for notice by the defendant appealing against an action, but the various sections of the Act seemed to be understood and supported by the majority of the members of the committee.

The committee rose and reported the bill written.

NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS PRESENTED.

The first annual report of the commissioners of Niagara Falls Park was presented and laid on the table. The report is very voluminous. The following statement is given in it as showing the amount annually required for the payment of interest, cost maintenance and necessary improvements:—

5 per cent. interest on \$525,000.....	\$21,000
Working fund, one cent per annum....	5,250
Salaries of superintendent, accountant and guards, wages of laborers and materials for general improvement..	15,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$41,250</b>

Various remarks on the purpose of the tolls exacted, their revenue producing results from the opening of the park on the 24th of May, 1888, to the 31st December, 1888, a little over seven months, is given as follows:—

Tolls for use of hydraulic elevator and use of clothing, including service of guides.....	\$3,029 35
Tolls for going over the island bridges.....	1,608 35
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$4,727 70</b>

"To fully comprehend the insignificance of the revenue thus received," says the report of the commissioners, when compared with the number of persons who visited the park, it will be necessary to give a synopsis of the return of visitors to the park for the same period as follows:—

Total number of carriages that entered the park.....	35,127
Number of visitors in carriages.....	127,254
Number of visitors on foot.....	86,620
<b>Total of visitors.....</b>	<b>213,874</b>

This summary shows that nearly 1,000 persons a day on an average visited the park for the seven months it was open. The average toll collected was therefore a fraction under two and a quarter cents from each visitor. "The astonishment and regret of the commissioners," says the report, "at such insignificant revenue results, are certainly not lessened when it is considered that of the large number of

visitors no less than 127,254 were occupants of carriages, from which it may be fairly assumed that a very large proportion of them were of the classes in more or less comfortable circumstances, who, it might reasonably have been expected, would have availed themselves, were it at a trifling extra cost, of the use of the artificial appliances which would have enabled them to see and enjoy to the utmost the infinite beauty and grandeur of the great natural wonder of the world."

Later on the report says:—"The commissioners are not prepared to admit at this early period to the history of the park, that the comparative failure during the past year to obtain the expected revenue from the sources named is conclusive evidence of a lack of appreciation of the interesting points on the part of the visitors or that the payment of the small toll exacted is the cause of failure, but rather that the wonderful effects and beauties of the points of interest referred to are not yet fully known to the public."

The commissioners have given considerable thought to the question of the manner in which the revenue may be augmented. They suggest, first, the promotion of an undertaking for the construction on the bank of the river of an electric railway between the park and Queenston. A survey of the route is now being made and when completed the commissioners purpose asking the Government's consent to advertise for proposals for the acquirement of the franchise for a term of years to be agreed upon. A second scheme is the establishment of a line of coaches to run at stated times between the Mowat and Dufferin gates. A third is the leasing of part of the old museum for the purposes of a restaurant, the want of which is a very serious inconvenience at present.

HIGH AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION REPORTS PROGRESS ALL ALONG THE LINE.

The report of the Minister of Education for the year 1888, together with the statistics of 1887, was presented this afternoon, containing the same amount of interesting information regarding the progress of the High and Public schools of the Province. In 1887 the school population is put down at 611,212, as against 494,804 in 1877, the number of boys being 259,083 and girls 234,129. In rural districts the average attendance was 46 per cent. of the registered attendance, in towns 60 per cent. and in cities 62 per cent. The County of Oxford furnishes the highest average, 56 per cent., as representing the rural districts, and Listowel Town heads the list, with an average attendance of 72 per cent. for the towns, while Hamilton is credited with having an average attendance of 67 per cent. The average for the Province as a whole is 50 per cent., an increase of one per cent. over last year. In the same year 44,374 attended less than 20 days, 757,888 from 20 to 50 days, 116,477 from 51 to 100, 103,974 from 101 to 150, 133,279 from 151 to 200, 14,320 from 201 to the whole year. The Minister points out that according to the above figures the compulsory attendance clause of the School Act is not observed by trustees, his own statement being as follows:—

In 1882 the number of absentees between the ages named was 87,444; in 1887 they numbered 89,628. From a more detailed examination of the returns for 1887 it will be seen that 79,236 of these were from counties or rural districts having a gross registered attendance of 367,284. That is to say, 22 per cent. of the rural school population attended school less than 100 days in the year. In towns the absentees numbered 7,960 out of a registered attendance of 59,636, or about 13 per cent.; in cities they numbered 2,382 out of a registered attendance of 65,232, or about three and one-half per cent.

The report then goes on to deal with the classification of pupils and the remuneration accorded the teachers. It appears that the highest salary paid a Public school teacher in 1887 was \$1,450, the average salary for males being \$425 and for females \$292. In counties males were paid an average salary of \$398 and females \$271. In 1877 the highest salary paid was \$1,100. The average salary paid males was \$398 and to females \$264, all showing that there is not much foundation for the statements recently made that the salaries of teachers are lower than ever in the history of the Province. The Minister then goes on to state that:—

There are now 5,549 school houses in the Province, of which 5,506 were open in 1887, distributed as follows:—5,148 in rural districts, 224 in towns and 177 in cities. The log school house is fast disappearing, there being only 591 in 1887, as against 1,466 in 1850. In the same period brick school houses have increased from 99 to 2,947; 5,429 school houses are freehold and 120 rented. The number of maps now used amounts to 49,711. In 1850 there were only 1,814. The expenditure on apparatus and prizes in the last eleven years amounted to \$295,940, and the expenditure on school buildings to \$4,054,283.

In coming to the receipts and expendi-