

THE LEGISLATURE.

A BUDGET OF MINOR MATTERS DISPOSED OF.

Mr. Clancy Attacks Mr. Fraser and Gets Hardly Handled--The Government's Water Rate--The Arrest of Hannah Boyd in Connection with the Galt Mystery--New Bills Introduced
— Notes of the Day.

MARCH 1, 1889.

There was no night session to-day, but the disposal of several questions and notices of motion formed a very fair afternoon's work. There was no breeze to-day, but there was quite a sharp little debate over the rate charged by the city for water used by the Government.

FIRST READINGS.

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

Respecting reference of matters to arbitration—Mr. Awrey.

To amend the Joint Stock Companies Winding-up Act—Mr. McKay.

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Wood (Hastings).

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Conmee.

Respecting the powers of electric light companies—The Attorney-General.

Respecting the administration of justice in certain cases—The Attorney-General.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time :—

Respecting the limited liability of incorporated companies—The Attorney-General.

To amend the Agricultural and Arts Act—Mr. Drury.

THE JURY LAW.

Mr. Stewart asked whether it is the intention of the Government to make any change in the jury law during the present session so far as relates to the second selection of jurors by county selectors. The Attorney-General replied very definitely in the negative.

NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

Mr. Morin moved for an order of the House for a return showing the number of persons who have visited the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park during the year 1888; also, showing the number who have paid for admission to the islands in the park, giving the amount of revenue derived from that source; also, showing the amount of revenue derived from all other sources during the year; also, the amount paid as expenses for the management of the park, giving the names of the officials and the amount paid to each; also, giving a statement of the money still on hand derived from the sale of bonds, and showing the amount of interest paid and from what source paid. In speaking to his motion Mr. Morin urged that the park should be made free and that the small amount of revenue derived from the charge for admission to the islands did not warrant its being maintained.

The Attorney-General in reply pointed out that most of the information asked for was already published in the report lately issued by the Park Commissioners. There was no objection to the rest being furnished. As to the charge for admission to the islands, it was true that the revenue derived was less than had been expected originally, and this matter, together with the general question of the revenue of the park, was receiving the attention of the commissioners. The commissioners were also considering various schemes by means of which they expected to considerably increase their revenue. The Attorney-General pointed out that it had never been intended that the expenses of the park should be paid out of the Provincial Treasury.

MR. CLANCY AND RALEIGH TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Clancy moved for an order of the House for a return of copies of all correspondence subsequent to 1884 between the Government and the Council of the Township of Raleigh and any person on behalf of the township, relating to the reduction made in the indebtedness of the township to the Province. Also, showing the date of the Order in Council passed, making such reduction.

In moving the resolution Mr. Clancy seized the opportunity to make a rather violent attack on the Government, particularly on the Minister of Public Works,

contending that the promise of the reduction of the indebtedness referred to had been made at such a time as to favorably and unfairly influence the election of local Liberal candidates for seats in the House of Commons and in the Local Legislature. He discussed the question for over a quarter of an hour.

Mr. Fraser deprecated the violent personal attack made by Mr. Clancy under cover of a very innocent looking resolution, and without having given him the least intimation that he intended discussing the aspect of the case. He pointed out that Mr. Clancy did not argue that the Government did wrong in promising to make the reduction in question, but simply that it had been made at the wrong time. Now, if anybody was responsible for having the reduction made at the wrong time, most certainly it was Mr. Clancy himself, for the reduction was made in consequence of the representations of a deputation which Mr. Clancy arranged to meet the Minister of Public Works just at the close of the session of the year named.

Mr. Balfour, in a rousing speech, pointed out that Mr. Clancy had, at election times, taken credit to himself for the promised reduction of indebtedness. He incidentally referred also to the fact that at the same time, promises were made over the signature of Sir Hector Langevin and read at Conservative meetings for the erection of various public buildings, which intended to be the part of the Dominion Government.

These buildings were made dependent upon the return of a Conservative member.

GOVERNMENT'S WATER RATE.

SHALL THE GOVERNMENT PAY TWICE THE RATE OF CITIZENS?

Mr. McLaughlin moved for an order of the House for a return showing the amount paid by the Province and the rates charged per thousand gallons by the City of Toronto during each of the past five years for water supplied to the public institutions and departmental buildings and offices of this Province located in the city. The hon. gentleman commented vigorously upon what he contended to be the injustice of the city charging the Government twice as much as was charged to citizens generally. The city contrived to manage this by means of the by-law which decreased the water rate by fifty per cent. to those ratepayers who paid their rates within a certain time. The Government, of course, was not a ratepayer, and so could not get the reduction made to other people. The hon. gentleman then pointed out the advantages derived by the city from the presence here of the Government, showing that there was a direct expenditure in the city of \$939,000, exclusive of the \$60,000 for members' indemnity, of which, said the hon. gentleman, there was very little left by the time the members got away to their homes, so that that might be as well included. The total amount of money paid by the city on its water account last year was \$15,075. Fifty per cent. of this would be \$7,538, the amount wrongfully extracted by the city from the Provincial Government every year.

Mr. Creighton understood that there had been some sort of connivance between the Government and the city in respect to this matter.

Mr. Fraser denied this, and said he had always regarded it as unfair on the part of the city as to the course they pursued with respect to water supply to the public institutions of the Province. Any other city would be glad to get these buildings, even if they were free of taxation.

Mr. H. E. Clarke pointed out that these institutions do not pay one cent towards the general taxation of the city, whereas other water-takers are compelled to do so. At the same time he would like to see the city and the Government come to some amicable arrangement on the subject. He did not think that the Government would be able to supply the public institutions with water at a cheaper rate than is now done by the city, but yet there might be concessions on both sides, and he hoped there would. "As to the Government moving away from Toronto," said Mr. Clarke, "how would they look up at Lake Scugog?"

"Just as handsome," said Mr. Fraser.

Mr. E. F. Clarke, as Mayor of the city, maintained that it was hardly fair to charge the City of Toronto with being mean in its business relations with the Province. So far as he was concerned if any injustice had been done in the past he would do everything possible to prevent it for the future.

Mr. A. F. Wood hoped that the matter would soon be settled on a business-like basis. It was well enough known that the Province was paying too much for water for