

THE LEGISLATURE.

▲ DIVISION ON THE TORONTO REGISTRY BILL.

The City and University Agreement Discussed—Mr. Murray's Speech on French in the Schools—Deputations from London and Peterboro'—General Notes of the Day.

MARCH 12th, 1889.

The House was apparently exhausted today with the effort of yesterday, and the proceedings were very quiet, most of the day, in fact, being spent in committee of the whole, attending to various secondary Government measures.

NEW BILLS.

A bill entitled an Act to amend the Registry Act, was introduced by Dr. Preston and read a first time.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—

To authorise the Supreme Court of Judicature to admit William Walter Pope to practise therein as a solicitor—Mr. Leys.

To incorporate the Toronto Belt Line Railway Company—Mr. Gilmour.

Respecting the Yorkville Loop Line Railway Company—Mr. Leys.

Respecting St. James' Cathedral, Toronto—Mr. Leys.

To revise and amend the Act incorporating the Sarnia & Lambton Southern Railway Company—Mr. Graham.

Respecting the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway Company—Mr. Leys.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

The House then went into committee on Government orders, and passed through this stage of procedure the following bills:—

To amend the Pharmacy Act—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

Respecting damage to lands by flooding in the new districts—Mr. Hardy.

Respecting oaths under the Manhood Suffrage Act—The Attorney-General.

To protect the beaches and shores of the Province against depredation—Mr. Drury.

All these bills were considerably debated, but no change of consequence was made in their contents.

Mr. Leys' bill to amend the Municipal Act was read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee, and then it being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

CITY AND UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT.

After dinner the House went again into committee and considered Mr. Drury's bill respecting steam threshing machines, and the Attorney-General's bill respecting electric light companies. Then the Minister of Education moved the second reading of his bill to validate a certain agreement between the University of Toronto and the Municipal Corporation of Toronto. He briefly ran over the leading points in the dispute that had led up to the agreement which it was here proposed to validate. After the decision in the courts against the city and in favor of the University, and while matters were pending by way of appeal, negotiations were opened between the Mayor of Toronto and the trustees of the University, a proposition looking to the satisfactory settlement was made by the Mayor, and after negotiations extending over a period of several weeks the desired agreement was arrived at. "In this connection," said Mr. Ross, "it is proper to say that the Mayor of Toronto acted with great prudence and forethought, prudence in regard to the city's interest, and forethought as to the interest of the University. There appeared to be no anxiety on his part all through to take any advantage of the trustees of the University, or to make a bargain which would in any way place it at a disadvantage. On the other hand, Mr. John Hoskin, Q. C., who acted as negotiator for the trustees of the University, displayed great skill and tact in conducting the negotiations in question. He was deputed to make a settlement of the dispute that should not be in any way prejudicial to the interests of the University, and I may say with entire frankness that his services are scarcely to be overestimated, and that any concessions he may have made were such as no objection could be taken to." The hon. Minister of Education then explained the effect of the agreement on the part of the city to create and endow two chairs in the University on terms already well known to readers of THE GLOBE, and expressed his pleasure that when the matter of settlement came to be considered by the City Council neither the

Mayor nor Aldermen shared the view which the Mayor had told him was held by many people, to the effect that the city owed the University nothing, and should endeavor to make an agreement which would give the University as little as possible. He thought it would be a pity if, in such a city as Toronto, so important an institution as the Toronto University should be in any way looked down upon. Even looking at the matter from a financial standpoint, the revenue to the city from the presence in it of a university having at the present time as many as 800 students, was very considerable, to say nothing of the dignity and prestige a great university conferred upon a city. Mr. Ross closed by commenting again upon the satisfactory character of the agreement arrived at. All parties were eminently satisfied, he said, and the Government would stand to its part of it with pleasure.

Mr. E. F. Clarke, speaking in his capacity as Mayor, endorsed all that Mr. Ross had said, and used similar terms in regard to Mr. Ross himself in his dealings with him. He thought the agreement was creditable to the City of Toronto, and he would say further, that the Government were to be congratulated on the fairness with which they conducted the negotiations which led up to the agreement. So far as he (the speaker) was concerned his only object was to make provision for giving a practical education to the youth of the Province, and he felt sure the arrangement made would result in that.

In answer to Mr. Meredith, Mr. G. W. Ross said that property owners in the park were better provided for under the new agreement than formerly. His remarks were endorsed by Mayor Clarke, who stated that no complaints were made by lessees, so far as he knew, their rights being taken care of with respect to the agreement with the University entered into recently with the Government.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the bill respecting the administration of justice in certain cases. He explained the bill at some length, the points made being identical with those previously explained in THE GLOBE.

Mr. Meredith took serious objection to the fourth clause of the bill, which provides as follows:—

All questions as to whether the trial of an action is to be with or without a jury are hereafter to be disposed of before the day of the trial (subject only to any right of appeal); and except by consent no question as to the same shall be open to consideration at the trial: nor shall the judge at the trial, and either sitting in court or in chambers, during the sittings at which the action has been entered for trial, have authority either to dispense with a jury or to order the action to be tried by a jury. (R.S.O., ch. 44, ss. 76 et seq.)

Mr. Meredith's contention was that the enactment of this law would cause great prolongation of the sessions of courts, and would be inconvenient generally. He objected also to the twelfth clause, which provides for the appointment of a second police magistrate in any city in which the City Council passes a resolution affirming the need of the same.

The bill was then read a second time. The following bill was also read a second time:—

To conveyances of lands granted under the Grants and Homestead Act—The Attorney-General.

THE REGISTRY DIVISION.

In the afternoon the Attorney-General had moved the House into Committee on the bill respecting registry offices. Mr. Meredith, looking around, noticed that at that particular moment the Government benches were rather thin; at the same time his own were comfortably full. The temptation was too great, and he resolved to make one more desperate attempt to smash the Government. So he announced that he would now, and at every other stage of the bill, call for the "yeas" and "nays." The Attorney-General saw the manœuvre, and even while the Opposition leader was toying with his cup of sweetness it slipped from his lips by the Attorney-General announcing that "in that case he would go on with another order," and the House forthwith proceeded into committee to discuss beaches and shores. Mr. Meredith took his defeat on tactics good-naturedly, and when the motion to go into committee on the same bill came up again in the evening he carried out his intention, and called for the "yeas" and "nays," at the same time announcing his conviction that the legislation proposed by the bill was of a most iniquitous character. The members were called in and a vote duly taken. It was a straight party encounter, resulting in a vote of 51 to 31. The only members absent were Messrs. Gilmour, Leys, O'Connor, Pacaud, Pardee and A. F. Wood, five Liberals and one Con-