

LICENSES.

A Hot Debate in the Legislature

ON A MOTION BY MR. MEREDITH.

A Vigorous Reply by the Crown Lands Commissioner.

THE PROVINCIAL TREASURER SPEAKS ALSO.

**The Charges Against the Toronto
License Board — A Document Pro-
duced Signed by 143 of Toron-
to's License-Holders — A
Great Crop of Speeches—
Aid to Colonisa-
tion Rail-
ways.**

MARCH 14TH, 1889.

At the Government caucus held in the morning, it was understood that they announced their intention of granting aid to the following proposed railways:—

\$3,000 per mile for fifty miles of road from Port Arthur to Sand Lake, amounting in all to \$150,000 to that district.

\$3,000 per mile for twenty-eight miles, from a point on Manitoulin Island to connect with the Canadian Pacific railway.

\$3,000 per mile for a road from Parry Sound to the Northern & Pacific railway junction.

\$3,000 for 50 miles on a railroad beginning east of Palmer Rapids and terminating 20 miles east of Westport.

It is not at all improbable but the Government will also consider before the House rises the advisability of granting aid to the Nipissing & James' Bay railway, although it is believed they did not announce this as yet. The Government are fully alive to the representations made that the newly-settled districts of the Province are entitled to assistance in the line of railway development.

IN THE HOUSE.

This was to have been a very quiet day, but the thunderbolt of the Opposition, that tremendous and terrible weapon which they have been using all session in forging, and which was to have been thrown red hot into the ranks of the Government supporters and scattered there, has fallen at last. And it fell cold and lifeless. "There was nothing to it," as one of Mr. Meredith's friends in the Dominion House says whenever he has an opportunity. It was merely a rehash of the charges made some months ago by a single Toronto newspaper. Mr. Hardy handled the speaker and his arguments very easily, but very effectively, and Mr. Ross finally disposed of both. Before the question came up a small amount of routine business was disposed of.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—

Respecting the Ontario & Sault Ste. Marie Water, Light & Power Company and the Town of Sault Ste. Marie—Mr. Egan.

To enable the Corporation of the Village of Wyoming to dispose of certain lands—Mr. Graham.

Respecting the York roads and surveys thereof—Mr. Smith (York).

For the better protection of insectivorous birds—Mr. Clarke (Wellington).

TO CLOSE UP BUSINESS.

The Attorney-General moved:—

That when this House adjourns on Monday next, it do stand adjourned until eleven of the clock on Tuesday next; and that each day for the remainder of this session the House do stand adjourned until eleven of the clock in the forenoon of the following day, Mr. Speaker to leave the chair each day at one until three o'clock, without the question being put.

Mr. Meredith asked that the motion might be made to read Wednesday instead of Tuesday on account of a committee meeting on Tuesday morning.

The amendment was accepted and the motion passed.

BEACHES AND SHORES BILL.

The House then went into committee again on Mr. Drury's bill to protect the beaches and shores of the Province against depredation. There was a little discussion over it again, and when it came out of committee amendment had been made to it at the joint instance of Mr. Meredith and Mr. Preston, which confined the operations of the Act to Lakes Erie, Ontario and Huron. It was further amended to provide that no traffic in stone, gravel or sand shall take place without the consent of the owner of the land or of the Lieutenant-Governor.

NIPISSING FREE HOMESTEADS.

The House again went into committee on the bill respecting the conveyances of lands granted under the Free Grants and Homestead Act, reporting the bill with an amendment to the effect that it shall be entitled an Act respecting the Rainy River and Nipissing Free Grants Homestead Act.

THE LICENSE QUESTION.

THE OPPOSITION AT LAST GETS OFF ITS THUNDERBOLT.

On the motion to go into committee of supply, Mr. Meredith rose to remark that he wanted to take the opportunity to place, as clearly as possible, on record the line of demarcation between the two sides of the House as to the policy of dealing with liquor licenses. He referred to the charges recently made in certain newspapers against the administration of the license law, and insisted that the Government should have taken steps to prove there was no truth in those charges. He argued that there was ample evidence to many persons of the truth of at least some of the allegations that had been made. When the change in the law was made that took from the municipalities the power of dealing with the liquor traffic and gave it to the Provincial Government, it was pointed out by the Opposition that the effect of the change would be to bring the administration of liquor licenses within the region of politics. These forecasts had been fully verified. It would be remembered that the principal points of the Crooks Act were, first, to place a statutory limitation upon the number of licenses that could be issued, and secondly, to take from the municipalities and give to the Government the control of the liquor license administration. It might also be remembered that the Government had claimed often that they had taken over the control of the liquor licenses because of the strong pressure that had been brought to bear upon them by the Temperance party. Now, it was a remarkable fact that in the session of 1874, only a short time before the passage of the Crooks Act, a committee was appointed by the House to consider and report upon the question of the administration of liquor licenses, and although the chairman of the committee was a man who held strong Temperance views, it made no suggestion or recommendation in its report of transferring the control of licenses from the municipalities to the Government, which was odd, if the Government's contention as to the pressure brought to bear upon them to that end was correct. He desired to call attention to the position which the leader of the Government assumed when the Crooks Act was introduced. He made a distinct pledge that the members would be selected from both

political parties, but in a few months afterwards that policy was changed and ever since license commissioners had been appointed from the ranks of the Reform party only. He would demonstrate that many liquor dealers went over to the Reform party because they found that it was in their interests to do so. He did not, however, intend to enter upon the discussion of charges made in certain newspapers of the city, but he would read a statement made on oath by a brewer of the Province to show that the tavern-keepers were under the control of men of that trade controlled by the Liberal party and by the present Government. Mr. Meredith refused to give the name of the brewer whose evidence was read, but at last he divulged it, and it proved to be Mr. Lottridge, of Hamilton. The announcement was met with ironical laughter from the Government benches, and the retort from Mr. Hardy:—

Is that's all? (Laughter.)

Mr. Meredith endeavored to prove from the evidence adduced that the Government used their power to coerce tavern-keepers to become supporters of their own party and their interests. His only object, he said, in calling the attention of the House to the matter was to