

THE ASSEMBLY.

Presentation of Petitions the Chief Business.

A HEAVY BATCH OF THEM.

Labor Men Figure Very Prominently in Them.

MR. CREIGHTON AND FREE GRANTS

Notices of Motion—Bills Introduced—First Readings—Notes About the House—Deputations.

February 5th, 1890.

To-day witnessed another short session, but the order paper has begun to fill up, and there will soon be more work to be done. There was a big shower of petitions, among which those from labor organisations figured conspicuously. Mayor Clarke was in his place, and presented the heaviest batch of these.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Stewart—From Dufferin County Council, for the construction of sleighs of a uniform width.

Mr. E. F. Clarke—From Carpenters' and Joiners' Union No. 27, for the publication of assessment rolls, the enactment of a Workshops Regulation Act, concerning engagement of employees, and for appointment of Boards of Arbitration; from L. A. 5,743, K. of L., asking the same; from Maple Leaf S. O., No. 2,622, K. of L., asking the same; from L. A. 2,305, K. of L., asking the same; from D. A. 125, K. of L., asking the same; from Toronto (printing) Pressmen's Union No. 10, asking the same; from Toronto Typographical Union No. 91, asking the same.

Mr. Hess—From L. A. 4,373, K. of L., of Stratford, asking the same as above.

Mr. Garson—From L. A. 2,056, K. of L., St. Catharines, asking the same.

Mr. McKay—From Southern Central Railway Company, asking for extension of its powers.

Mr. Creighton—From Grey County Council, asking for abolition of all tax exemptions; from same, asking for legislation as to width of sleighs.

Mr. Ferguson—From Kent County Council, asking an amendment to the Drainage Act.

Mr. Clancy—From Rev. F. H. Larkin and others, of Chatham, praying that an Act may pass to enable the Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, to mortgage certain lands.

Mr. H. E. Clarke—From the Toronto Y. M. C. A., asking certain amendments to its charter.

Mr. Sprague—From L. A. 2,900, K. of L., Belleville, asking for a Workshops Regulation Act, for the annual publication of assessment rolls, for the appointment of Boards of Arbitration to settle labor disputes, and concerning the engagement of employees.

Mr. Mackenzie—From the Corporation of the Town of Sarnia and the Trustees of Sarnia Methodist Church, praying for an Act authorising sale of certain cemeteries in Town of Sarnia.

Mr. Chisholm—From Town of Brampton, to consolidate debt.

FIRST READINGS.

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

To amend the Public Health Act—Mr. Creighton.

To amend the Ontario Election Act—Mr. Whitney.

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

FREE GRANTS.

Mr. Creighton moved for an "Order of the House for a return, giving the dates, number of acres, location, or other description of each free grant made since the first day of July, 1867, under the authority of section thirteen of The Public Lands Act, with the names of the persons or corporations to whom each of these grants were made, with the purposes for which they were made. Also, all correspondence respecting these grants or any other grants applied for under the said section." Mr. Creighton pointed out that no information, so far as he knew, had been brought down on this matter since Confederation, and he thought it was time the House should know something of it.

Hon. Mr. Hardy asked that the date fixed for the returns asked for be extended back ten years, so that information on the matter in question before as well as after Confederation could be secured.

Mr. Creighton had no objection to this, so long as it did not delay the bringing down of the information asked for.

Then the House adjourned after a fifteen-minute session.

NOTES.

Mr. Waters has re-introduced, with slight alterations, his bill compelling Railway Companies to provide culverts suitable for the more efficient carrying out of the Ditches and Watercourses Act.

Mr. Evanturel took his seat for the first time this afternoon. He reports that his constituents have taken kindly to the report of the Commissioners, and that parents, as they always were, are most anxious that their children should acquire a knowledge of English.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Lees—Bill to amend the General Road Companies Act.

Mr. Wood (Hastings)—Bill to amend the Registry Act; bill to amend the Ontario Election Act.

Mr. Phelps—Bill to amend the Municipal Waterworks Act.

A deputation from the County Council of Oxford waited on the Attorney-General after the House adjourned. They were F. R. Ball, Woodstock; Wm. Nancekeville, Dereham, and Stephen Hall. They consulted Mr. Mowat as to the legality of applying the sinking fund to meet the Credit Valley Railway debt when due towards the erection of a Court House. The Attorney-General said that he could see no objection to the proposal.

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