

Sentiment of the House—A Number of Petitions—Bills Read a First Time—Stationary Engines.

February 17th, 1890.

“The Lieutenant-Governor recommends to the Legislative Assembly that a sum not exceeding one hundred and sixty thousand dollars be set apart from and out of the moneys forming part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of this Province to aid in the reconstruction of so much of Toronto University as has been injured or destroyed by fire, the said sum to be in addition to all other sum or sums which may be received or recovered by or on behalf of the University under any policies of insurance effected against loss or damage by fire to the said building.”

The above were the terms of a message received by the Attorney-General from the Lieutenant-Governor and announced to the House by the Speaker this afternoon, the first sitting of the House since Friday night's great disaster. It was expected the matter would come before the House in some form, but such promptitude and decision surpassed expectations. The announcement was received very generally with applause from the Conservative as well as the Government side of the House, and on motion of the Attorney-General the communication was referred to the same special Committee which will have to deal with the special resolutions which the Government will introduce on the subject shortly.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were read:—

Mr. Dance—From Duncan McMillan and others, of Malahide, praying that an Act may pass to incorporate the Aylmer & Port Burwell Railway Company.

Mr. Sprague—From the Town of Picton, asking for the abolition of exemptions from taxation.

Mr. E. F. Clarke—From Union No. 279, asking for the usual amendments to labor legislation.

Mr. Mack—From the united Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, asking that the License Commissioners under the Ontario License Act may be appointed by the County Councils instead of by the Government.

FIRST READINGS.

The following bills were read a first time:

To amend the Act relating to the City of Belleville—Mr. Ostrom.

To amend the Assessment Act—Col. Clarke.

To enable Wm. Lawless and others to sell or lease certain lands—Mr. Leys.

To further amend the Liquor License Law—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

Respecting the Hamilton Patriotic Volunteer Fund—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

To provide for the purchase of debentures issued by Councils for drainage purposes—Mr. Ross (Huron).

To amend the Assessment Act—Mr. Awrey.

STATIONARY STEAM ENGINES.

Mr. Phelps moved for an order showing the number of stationary steam engines in use in Ontario. The motion was carried without discussion.

The House adjourned at about half-past three.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Attorney-General—Bill respecting junior Judges in unorganised districts.

Attorney-General—Bill to amend Act to secure to wives and children the benefit of insurance.

Mr. Pacaud—Bill to amend Municipal Act.

Mr. Clarke (Wellington)—Return of the number and designation of School Boards in the cities, towns and incorporated villages of Ontario which have adopted the use of the ballot at annual school elections under sec. 103, chap. 225, R.S.O., with the number of School Boards in cities, towns and villages which have not adopted a ballot for such purposes.