

THE ASSEMBLY.

Important Amendments to the Ballot Act.

MORE GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

Debate on the Provincial Finances Continued.

Globe July 19, 1890

THE LAW OF SETTLED ESTATES AMENDED.

Life Insurance Amendment—Saw Logs and Slide Companies—County Bridges—Petitions and Motions.

The House settled down to business to-day in earnest. Two sessions were held, most of the time being taken up with the debate on the motion to go into Supply. A number of important measures were introduced by the Attorney-General, among them being one for securing the secrecy of the ballot.

PETITIONS.

- The following petitions were presented:—
- From the County Council of Wellington, praying for certain amendments to the Municipal Act respecting fences along highways—Mr. Guthrie.
 - From Marshall Woodcock and others, of Deseronto, asking for amendments to the game law respecting the shooting of ducks—Mr. Hudson.
 - From Town Council of Walkerton, praying for an Act to consolidate the debt of the town—Mr. O'Connor.
 - From the County Council of Renfrew, praying for amendments to the Assessment Act affecting real property of railways—Mr. Murray.
 - From County Council of Renfrew, asking for the establishment of a Practical School of Science in Kingston—Mr. Murray.
 - From County Council of Renfrew, asking for railway aid—Mr. Murray.
 - From Welland County Farmers' Institute, for amendments to the law respecting dogs running at large—Mr. Morin.
 - From County Council of Wentworth, for amendments to the Assessment Act respecting the assessment of tolls—Mr. Awrey.
 - From W. G. Walton and others, of Hamilton, praying that an Act may pass to incorporate the Hamilton & Barton Incline Railway—Mr. Awrey.

FIRST READINGS.

- The following bills were read a first time:—
- An Act to amend the Act to impose the tax on dogs—Mr. Dryden.
 - Respecting the old cemetery and the new cemetery in the Town of Sarnia—Mr. Mackenzie.
 - To incorporate the Town of North Toronto—Mr. Gilmour.
 - Respecting the Town of West Toronto Junction—Mr. Gilmour.
 - To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Ostrom.
 - To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Stratton.
 - To authorise the sale of certain lands of the First Baptist Church, Ottawa—Mr. Bronson.
 - To amend the Timber Slide Company's Act—Mr. Bronson.
 - To amend the Act respecting the driving of saw logs in lakes, rivers, etc.—Mr. Ostrom.
 - To enable the Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, to sell certain lands—Mr. Ferguson.
 - To amend the Manhood Suffrage Act—Mr. Meacham.
 - To incorporate the Town of Chester—Mr. H. E. Clarke.
 - To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Meredith.
 - To facilitate the administration by the Synod of Huron of certain funds relating to St. Thomas' Church, Dover East—Mr. Meredith.
 - To amend the Election Act with reference to the secrecy of voting—The Attorney-General.
 - To amend the law relating to the release and sale of settled estates—The Attorney-General.
 - To further amend the Act to secure to wives and children the benefits of life insurance—The Attorney-General.
 - Respecting official documents when required in evidence—The Attorney-General.
 - To correct a clerical error in the Act relating to the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka—The Attorney-General.
 - With respect to the powers of Commissioners in taking affidavits—The Attorney General.

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

The resumption of the debate on the Budget, or, according to the order paper, on the motion that the House do again resolve itself into the Committee of Supply, was first on the order paper, and the thread of it was taken up by Mr. Clancy. That gentleman said he did not intend going over the whole ground of the Treasurer's financial statement, but there were some things contained in it that he really could not allow to pass without comment. He reiterated the plea that Ontario really has no surplus, that the Dominion trust funds may not be converted into assets, and that the Treasurer really did not know the difference between assets and surpluses. That he might not remain in ignorance in future, Mr. Clancy informed him that a surplus consisted of the unused balance on transactions between one end of the year and the other. He insisted that a large proportion of the interest paid by the Dominion, \$280,000, in fact, out of the entire sum of \$355,000, is paid as a subsidy, no matter of interest or not.

...so rattled the
...critic that he remarked
...that the non-gentleman might shake
...head, but it was none the less a fact that all
...the Province the people were sneering at
...Mr. Ross' feeble attempts at financial jugglery,
...the violence of which remark evoked a hearty
...laugh from the Government side of the House
...and a respectful cheer from the Conservatives.

Mr. Clancy said he must be in the right in this contention, because in Mr. Ross' first financial statement he had himself counted part of this interest as a Dominion subsidy. He used the usual argument in re Crown Lands revenue, claiming that it was every year diminishing, owing to the extravagant habit the Government has of using them, and that every year the Province becomes less able to meet its obligations. Then he touched on the present liabilities of the Government, and said that among these should have been included the railway aid which the Government last year determined to give. In regard to this point, he insisted that the hon. Treasurer had tricked the people, and he would be tricking them worse than ever if at the expiration of the present forty-year annuities he intended renewing them for forty years more.

"Why, you are giving us a very long lease of power," remarked Mr. Hardy.

Well, said Mr. Clancy, he supposed the hon. gentleman would not live so long, and that was his main hope when he entered into this forty years scheme.

The Treasurer interposed the remark that Mr. Clancy would find that his next door neighbor (Mr. H. E. Clarke) highly approved of the scheme which he was so vigorously condemning.

Mr. Clancy was apparently greatly surprised that Mr. Clarke should have ventured to do this without consulting him, and, remarking that he did not believe the House would have voted the money had they known how the Government intended to use it, he dropped the subject. He wound up with an all-round condemnation of the manner in which the Provincial finances have been managed for many years past, and with a serious statement of the weary old joke that the Province is going straight to taxation. It is due to him to state that he sat down amid the applause of his friends.

Mr. Awrey continued the debate. He first devoted his attention to some of the remarks of the senior member for Toronto (Mr. H. E. Clarke), whom he complimented upon the ingenuity he had shown in manipulating figures with a view to deceiving the people of the Province. He glanced for a moment at Dominion finances, and showed Mr. Clarke that if they were looked at through the same spectacles as those with which he regarded Provincial finances the Dominion would be convicted of having had every year a deficit instead of what they had claimed—a surplus—and these deficits (according to Mr. Clarke's system of computation) would, at the present time, have been enormous. He reminded Mr. Clarke of some remarks he had made in 1884 in regard to the estimates, none of which he said at the time he would cut down in the slightest way, and the approval he had expressed of a liberal bestowal of money in permanent public buildings, and contrasted that with his criticisms last Thursday evening. Mr. Awrey insisted that Mr. Clarke's remarks were generally untrustworthy, and as an instance pointed out that they were very wide of the truth when he had made so simple a statement as that Hamilton and Wentworth furnished much more than their share of lunatics to the Provincial asylums. Figures were given to show the inaccuracy of this, and a few pleasantries indulged in across the floor of the House, in which the point in dispute apparently was as to whether from either Wentworth County or Toronto City a lunatic had got into the Legislature. After these mild personalities Mr. Awrey rebutted Mr. Clarke's charges of extravagance in connection with the Departments of Agriculture and Education. Regarding the remarks he had made under the last head, Mr. Awrey showed that in making the bald statement that the amount of money apportioned to Separate Schools had been increased, and that that was the main difference he saw in the estimates of that Department, Mr. Clarke had been unfair and had attempted to deceive the people. He should have mentioned that the amount in question had increased simply because the number of Separate Schools had in-

creased, and the amount paid on their account was apportioned on a regular basis. Coming on to the question of the possibility of realising or not on the Dominion trust funds, Mr. Awrey showed that the Dominion was ready, even anxious, to have them realised, and therefore there could be no room for doubt as to that point, nor consequently as to the wisdom of counting them as assets. Mr. Awrey closed with a reply to Mr. Clancy's complaint in regard to the railway annuities the Government had issued. Mr. Clancy thought the Government should have paid this annuity out of its surplus. Now was it reasonable that the Government should take money for which it was getting five or six per cent, and pay it away when they could borrow money sufficient for their purpose at four or four and a quarter per cent, and so save thousands of dollars to the Province?

Mr. Wood, of Hastings, twitted the Government with having found it necessary to put up two men to answer Mr. Clarke, the last of them having had the opportunity of reading his remarks in print. He would not pretend to reply to Mr. Awrey. If the reports of the two speeches were compared the public would judge rightly for itself between the two. Mr. Wood then vigorously attacked the railway annuity scheme, said it was a dead scheme and that the people were kept in the dark in regard to it.

Mr. G. B. Smith replied. Mr. Wood, he said, seemed to be under the impression that the railway annuities were not mentioned in the public accounts. He assured him, and everybody else who labored under the same impression, that he was wrong, and that it appeared fully set forth in the public accounts. Mr. Smith indulged in some gentle chaff in regard to Mr. Clarke, whom he termed a Heaven-born financier, and then he proceeded to deal with the Heaven-born financier's methods of argument. He charged Mr. Clarke with having misled the House—at least his own friends in the House—in regard to the railway annuity scheme, which he (Mr. Smith) defended on