

## THE ASSEMBLY.

### ▲ Number of Bills Advanced a Stage—▲ Short Session.

March 10, 1890.

The House sat for less than two hours today, being Monday. The principal business was the second reading of a number of more or less important bills of private members.

#### THIRD READING.

The following bill was read a third time:—

To consolidate the debenture debt of the County of Middlesex—Mr. Ross (Middlesex).

One or two bills were advanced through the Committee stage, and the House then proceeded to second readings.

#### PRIVATE BILLS.

The following private bills were read a second time:—

To amend the Act incorporating the Parry Sound Colonisation Railway Company—Mr. Armstrong.

To enable William Lawrence and others to lease certain lands—Mr. Leys.

To amend the Act to incorporate Huron College—Mr. Meredith.

To incorporate the Village of Burk's Falls—Mr. Armstrong.

Respecting the sinking fund of the Town of Palmerston—Mr. Allan.

Respecting the old cemetery and the Methodist cemetery in the Town of Sarnia—Mr. Mackenzie.

#### MOTION.

Mr. Miller moved for an order of the House for a return showing the amount received by the Province from the Counties of Lennox and Addington from the sale of Crown lands, license fees and woods and forests respectively, in each year since Confederation.

The order was granted without discussion.

#### QUESTIONS.

Mr. Hammell asked whether Mr. Marriott, who is teaching in School Section No. 5, Township of Sarnia, is qualified to be a teacher in the Public Schools of that township. If so, how is he qualified and by whose authority?

Hon. G. W. Ross said that he was informed by the Inspector of the Division that Mr. Marriott is not qualified to teach in the Township of Sarnia.

Mr. Stewart asked whether it is the intention of the Government to cause an investigation to be made with a view to ascertaining what has become of the large sum unaccounted for by the late Police Magistrate for the County of Dufferin, from fines imposed by him during the years 1886 and 1887.

Hon. J. M. Gibson pointed out that as the Dominion Government and the County Councils were the parties interested in fines imposed under the Scott Act, the Government did not propose nor had it any interest in causing such an investigation. The Police Magistrate concerned had been superseded by the present official, Mr. Gray.

#### MR. DRYDEN'S DOG BILL.

Mr. Dryden moved the second reading of his bill for the amendment of the Act to impose a tax on dogs and for the protection of sheep. The bill was up last year and was then voted down, in spite of a very able speech by Mr. Dryden. Since then it has been somewhat modified. It places a considerable tax on dogs, namely, an annual tax of \$1 for a dog and \$3 for a bitch, and for each dog and bitch respectively thereafter \$2 and \$5. Every municipality, however, which wishes, is to have the right to

restrain from imposing the tax. Mr. Dryden accompanied his motion with a few remarks, touching the uselessness of a large proportion of dogs that are kept by people who have no use for them, and the special harm done in the destruction of sheep. There was more favor shown to the bill this year than last. Mr. Wood, of Brant, said he had heard from a number of his supporters on the bill, and he was going to support it warmly. Mr. Lees, of Larnark, intimated that he was going to do the same. Mr. Blyth said he was a friend of the dog as well as the sheep, and didn't believe in the bill. After a little more discussion the bill was sent to the Special Agricultural Committee, though several members wanted it to be sent to the Municipal Committee.

#### NOT A FRIEND IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. Leys moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Assessment Act. The bill proposes to amend by adding the following:—

Provided always that when the petition is in respect of a tenement which has remained vacant more than three months in the year in consequence of its being a summer resort, and the owner or lessee being unable to occupy it during the colder months of the year from its situation, the said Court shall remit such proportion of the taxes due on such tenement as bear a fair proportion to the taxes for the whole year for the number of months that the said owner or proprietor is compelled to vacate the said premises for the causes aforesaid.

It will be at once recognised how this would affect residents on the Island during summer, for instance, or residents at most of the other small summer resorts in the neighborhood of Toronto. There was at once a storm of opposition. Mr. H. E. Clarke asked that the bill might stand until Mayor Clarke was present, but the Mayor happened to come in just then, and he raised his voice vigorously in opposition to it. Mr. Meredith threw at Mr. Leys the remark that nobody but a retiring member would have introduced such a bill. Dr. Preston said it would affect many municipalities besides Toronto. Mr. Leys did not champion the bill very strongly, but thought it should get the same treatment as most others of the kind and be allowed to go to the Municipal Committee. The Attorney-General admitted the prevalence of the system, but intimated that this had better be an exception, inasmuch as it had "not a friend in the House." The order was thereupon discharged.

#### INSOLVENT CREDITORS.

Mr. G. B. Smith moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent creditors. He explained that creditors under the bill would have power to appoint persons not resident in the place where the debtor resided assignees of the insolvent estate, and also giving them power to substitute for an assignee another assignee if they deem it necessary. After some opposition was manifested against the first part of the bill as above, on the suggestion of the Attorney-General the bill was allowed to pass, on the understanding that the mover would not insist on its becoming a part of the bill.

#### ASSESSMENT OF SALARIES.

Mr. Phelps moved the second reading of the bill amending the Assessment Act. It provides that persons earning salaries shall be assessed at the place where such duties are performed.

The bill was read a second time.

#### OTHER SECOND READINGS.

The following bills were read a second time and referred to the Municipal Committee:—

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

To amend the Municipal Waterworks Act—Mr. Wood (Brant).

To amend the Municipal Act—Mr. Wylie.

#### HIDDEN UNDER THE DESKS.

Before the House adjourned, Mr. Meredith complained that there was a lack of copies of the statutes, which occasioned a good many members serious inconvenience. The Librarian, he said, had reported that some of the members hid the books under their desks. As Mr. Meredith said this his eye wandered round, no doubt accidentally, to Mr. Tooley. An investigation should commence at once.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Attorney-General—Bill with respect to costs of summary convictions.

Mr. Ross (Huron)—Bill respecting the commitment of persons of tender years to the Reformatory and Industrial Schools.

Mr. Balfour—Return of all correspondence, petitions and other communications forwarded to the Department of Public Works in regard to a reduction of the indebtedness of the Township of Tilbury West to the Province under the Ontario Drainage Act; also copies of any replies thereto.