

A Very Brief Sitting of the House Yesterday.

TORONTO, March 13.

The sitting of the House of Assembly today was brief, and little business was done.

Toronto's Petition.

Mr. E. F. Clarke presented the petition from the City Council of Toronto for an amendment to the Municipal Act to appoint joint permanent assessors and to divide the city into districts for assessment purposes.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. Kerns introduced a bill to consolidate the debenture and floating debt of the Town of Milton at the sum of \$40,000, and to empower the town to issue debentures to retire the outstanding debentures and pay off the floating debt.

Mr. Waters introduced a bill to amend the Assessment Act. It is intended to do away with the poll tax and the two days' statute labor which in townships is required to be given in lieu of it. Also it provides for the exemption from taxation of implements and machinery used for the working of farms. This is Mr. Waters' second attempt to abolish the poll tax, and he is now armed with figures showing that the amount collected is a mere bagatelle and that in many townships the tax is not regarded.

Mr. Waters introduced also a bill to amend the Municipal Act. It reduces the qualification of municipal voters in villages and towns to \$100, to correspond with the present township qualification, and in cities to \$200, one-half of what it is at the present time. Another clause of the same bill declares that the moneys in municipal sinking funds shall not be used for the payment of current expenses under a penalty of the members of the Municipal Council offending being disqualified for five years from holding office and being personally responsible for the amount so appropriated. The representative for North Middlesex is one of the most industrious members in the House. During the twelve years he has occupied a seat he has brought forward many of the most useful reforms which have annually been adding to the completeness of the municipal system of the Province.

Mr. H. E. Clarke presented a bill respecting Trinity Church, Toronto, providing that all leases of lands of that church which have been made by the trustees, Messrs. Daniel Wilson, B. Homer Dixon and Archibald Hamilton, shall be binding on the churchwardens; it also releases the trustees from liability in connection with their trust, which they have now ceased to contest.

Mr. Gibson presented a bill respecting the liability of directors. It follows the recent English statute making directors of companies responsible for statements made in prospectuses by them or with their authority.

Some Questions Answered.

In reply to Mr. H. E. Clarke, Mr. Mowat stated that no communication, verbal or written, had taken place between the Government of Ontario and the Government of Quebec with reference to any increase of or change in the method of fixing the amount of the Provincial subsidies.

Mr. Magwood asked for information in relation to the North Perth election petition and subsequent bye-election. Mr. Mowat stated that the judge's report on the election trial was dated on 10th December, 1890, and was received on the following day. There being no Speaker no warrant was issued for a new election, but the clerk issued the writ without a warrant. It was signed and completed the 13th December, 1890, and was forwarded to the returning officer on 31st December. The question proceeded, "Whether any communication was received by the Government, or any member thereof, as to the issue of the writ or otherwise in respect of the holding of the said new election, and if so, whether such communications were verbal or in writing?" In reply to this Mr. Mowat stated that there might have been some conversation with members of the Government, but nothing of importance. He proposed to go on and give further information with regard to these elections, but Mr. Meredith objected on the ground that on this order there would be no opportunity for a reply and he asked that the statement be made later. Mr. Mowat said he could not proceed if the objection was insisted upon, but he had thought the information would be of use if given at this time.

In reply to Mr. Meredith, Mr. Mowat stated that the Prison Reform Commission report was being put in type and would be brought down during the session, exactly when he could not say. He assured the House, however, that the preparation of the book was being pushed forward with diligence.

The House adjourned at 3.50 o'clock.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. Waters—Inquiry—Is it the intention of the Government during this or any future session of this Parliament to bring in a bill to enable women to vote for members of the Legislature? Also, is it the intention of the Government during this or any future session of this Parliament to introduce any bill or measure for the consideration of this House having for its object the borrowing of money from British capitalists and the loaning of the same to farmers who may have their farms mortgaged, said money to be loaned at a rate of interest as nearly as may be to the rate that said money can be had for in the English money market? Also, is it the intention of the Government to formulate or propose any other mode or scheme of obtaining and loaning money to farmers (who may have their farms mortgaged) at a low rate of interest?

Mr. Monk—Inquiry—(1) When was Thomas Murray, Esq., appointed to the office of sheriff of the County of Renfrew? (2) Does he still hold the office? (3) If not, when and how did he cease to have it?

Mr. A. F. Campbell (E. Algoma)—Return showing the amounts in yearly aggregate of (1) All sums received from sales of lands for agricultural purposes in Algoma East from January 1, 1871, to December 31, 1890. (2) All sums received from the sale of mineral lands in Algoma East for the same period. (3) All sums received for bonuses, ground rents or timber dues, or in respect of from the sale of timber in Algoma East for the same period. (4) All sums received from the collection of taxes upon lands in Algoma East for the same period. (5) All sums received from the issue of liquor licenses in Algoma East for the same period. (6) All sums expended by the Government in the said electoral district of Algoma East for colonisation roads or other public purposes from the 1st January, 1871, to 31st December, 1890.

Mr. Whitney—Tuesday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

Mr. Barr—Tuesday next—Bill to amend the Assessment Act; also bill to amend the Public Schools Act.

Mr. O'Connor—Tuesday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.

THE NEW MINING POLICY.

A Sudbury Deputation Before the Government.

IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS.

The Government Policy Hitherto Commended.

A School of Mines and Experimental Smelter Needed—The Prospector and His Work.

Yesterday afternoon a deputation from the Sudbury region waited upon the Provincial Ministers to present to them some suggestions respecting the new mining policy of the Government in respect to the "nickel belt," the section of territory which has been withdrawn from location and sale pending new regulations yet to be made. The deputation consisted of Stephen Fournier, reeve of McKim Township (in which Sudbury Village is situated); James Stobie, the well-known prospector and mine-owner; Dan. O'Connor of Sudbury, proprietor of some valuable mining locations; R. McConnell of Mattawa, a prominent prospector; and J. C. Ryan of Saginaw, Mich., who has considerable interest in the district. The deputation was introduced by Mr. Loughran, M.P.P. for Nipissing, in which Sudbury is situated, and was accompanied by Mr. Connee, M.P.P. for Algoma, a man of experience in mining matters. The delegates were received by Hon. Oliver Mowat, Attorney-General; Hon. A. S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, in whose special charge this matter of mining regulations rests; Hon. J. M. Gibson, Provincial Secretary; Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, and Hon. E. H. Bronson. The discussion was brief and to the point, and the facts brought out and opinions expressed evidently impressed the Ministers and assured for the members of the deputation a careful consideration of their propositions.

What Sudbury Asks For.

The following statement, addressed to the Premier and Commissioner of Crown Lands, and signed by Mr. Fournier as chairman, was given to the Ministers:—
"At a public meeting called by the Town Council of Sudbury to discuss the provisions of the Mining Act and the order in Council passed on the 29th of November last withdrawing cer-