

THE LEGISLATURE.

Discussing the Bye-Election in North Perth.

MR. MEREDITH'S CHARGES.

Answer by Hon. Mr. Hardy and Hon. Mr. Mowat.

Many Bills Introduced—More Deputations and More Petitions—Report on Compulsory Education—Personal.

March 20

A great many bills were introduced and advanced the first stage in the Legislature yesterday. The tide of petitions still continues strong. The galleries have been thronged every day since the opening, but until yesterday the visitors saw little more than formal business transacted. A motion respecting the North Perth bye-election brought out excellent speeches by Mr. Meredith and Mr. Hardy which were listened to with interest.

When Mr. White's proposed motion asking for papers respecting the withdrawal from sale and location of mining lands was called, Mr. Meredith said he understood that this would stand until next week at the request of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Mr. Hardy nodded.

Mr. H. E. Clarke moved without comment the resolution, of which he had given notice, asking for correspondence not already brought down with reference to matters in dispute between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. In reply to Mr. Meredith the Attorney-General was understood to say that he believed these documents could be laid before the House before the bill on the subject of these disputes came up for a second reading.

North Perth Bye-Election.

The principal trouble of the day arose over this resolution:—

Mr. Magwood—Order of the House for a return showing the date of the certificate of the judges appointed to try the election petition in the North Perth election case. The date when the certificate was received by the clerk of the House. Copy of the warrant for the issue of the new writ for holding an election for the said riding to fill the vacancy created by the decision of the judges. Copy of the new writ for holding the said election. Copies of all correspondence between the members of the Government, or any of them, or any departmental officer or officers of the House, or with any person or persons with reference to the issue of the said writ for the holding of the said new election.

In presenting this resolution Mr. Magwood made no statement, but Mr. Meredith suggested that the Attorney-General might make now the statement respecting bye-elections which, it will be remembered, he was not allowed to make when Mr. Magwood put a question regarding this same matter. Mr. Mowat said he had not the papers with him, but he would state the facts generally from memory. Some of the elections had been delayed in order that they might all be held on the same day. As soon as a vacancy occurred the writ was prepared to be forwarded, but the last could not be issued before December 21. There were four elections fixed for the same day, and Hamilton and North Bruce might have been included but for delay in giving judgment in those cases. It was deemed advisable to go on with the four in which there were vacancies so that there might be representatives of those ridings in the House at its opening.