

THE LEGISLATURE.

Alleged Irregularities in Parry Sound Election.

POLL WRONGLY OPENED.

Many Private Bills Advanced a Stage.

Assessment Act and Other Amendments—Mr. Meredith's Bill Respecting the Courts—Hospitals Report.

TORONTO, April 13.

The order paper to-day promised more than ordinary interest, and whisperings on the Ministerial side of the House gave a touch of excitement to the anticipation of the debate on Mr. Hudson's motion. The debate was down on the paper as the first order, and the afternoon would have opened sprightly enough had it come on. By an arrangement Mr. Hudson had the consideration of his charges in connection with the East Hastings election postponed until Wednesday on account of his absence from the House to-day.

The House sat until 7 o'clock, and then, having cleared the order paper, adjourned. In committee half a score of private bills were disposed of, and then second readings were given to a number more. The routine business was soon passed over. The only petition presented was one by the hon. Provincial Secretary, and only two bills were introduced. When the order was reached to resume the debate on the motion of Mr. Hudson re East Hastings election, Mr. Meredith asked that it be made the first order of the day for Wednesday. The Attorney-General remarked that he hoped it would be understood that the postponement was not at the instance of the Government. Mr. Meredith did not like this quietly-made remark, and retorted that such a statement was uncalled for. Mr. Mowat explained that the postponement had not been sought by the Government; that, on the contrary, there were reasons why the matter should be disposed of by the House immediately. Mr. Meredith said the arrangement had been for the convenience of members, and Hon. Mr. Fraser, replying, said Mr. Hudson had only spoken to him and had asked that the debate be put off because he was going home.

Private Bills.

The following private bills were passed in committee of the whole:—

Respecting the waterworks of the Town of Woodstock—Mr. McKay (Oxford).

Respecting an agreement between the Midland Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada and the Village of Midland—Mr. Biggar.

To incorporate the Ontario, Belmont & Northern Railway Company—Mr. Blezard.

To enable the incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto to consolidate and manage its trust funds—Mr. Hardy.

To incorporate the Bracebridge & Trading Lake Railway Company—Mr. Marter.

Respecting the Toronto & Mimico Electric Railway & Light Company (limited)—Mr. Gilmour.

Respecting Trinity Church, Toronto—Mr. H. E. Clarke (Toronto).

Respecting the Village of Casselman—Mr. Evanturel.

To provide for the division of the Township of Tilbury West—Mr. Balfour.

The following bills were read the second time:—

To enable Joseph Albert Brown to be registered as a member of the Ontario College of Pharmacy—Mr. Davis.

Respecting the Town of Bracebridge—Mr. Marter.

To authorise the Town of Collingwood to issue certain debentures—Mr. Wylie.

For the relief of the estate of the late William Dunn—Mr. Tait.

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Essex—Mr. Balfour.

To consolidate the debt of the Town of Port Arthur—Mr. Conmee.

To amend the act to incorporate the Ottawa, Arnprior & Renfrew Railway Company—Mr. Monk.

To amend the act to incorporate the Fort Erie Ferry Railway Company—Mr. Baxter.

To amend the act to incorporate the Parry Sound Colonisation Railway Company—Mr. Sharpe.

To enable the Synod of Huron to consolidate and manage its trust funds—Mr. Meredith.

To amend the act incorporating the College of Ottawa—Mr. Bronson.

Respecting certain local improvements in the City of Ottawa—Mr. Bronson.

Respecting by-law No. 123 of the Town of Gravenhurst—Mr. Marter.

Rainy River Settlers.

In reply to Mr. Conmee, Mr. Hardy stated that there were a few settlers in the Rainy River districts who took their lands under regulations of the Dominion Government by which they were to get grants of 200 acres. As to amending the Rainy River Act so as to allow of such grants being made by the Province, the Government had the matter under consideration.

Parry Sound Election.

Though Mr. Hudson's motion for an investigation by the Privileges and Elections Committee of the alleged frauds in the East Hastings election was not proceeded with, another matter of something the same character was entered upon, on the following motion by Mr. Marter:—

Mr. Marter—Copy of the proclamation of the returning officer for the Electoral District of Parry Sound, appointed to hold the last election of a member to represent the said electoral district in this House, for holding the election and fixing the places at which polls were to be opened for taking the votes of the electors thereat. A list of the places not named in the said proclamation at which polls were opened. A statement of the number of votes cast at each polling place not mentioned in the said special proclamation, showing the number of votes cast for each candidate. Copies of the notices, if any, of the opening and holding of such last-mentioned polls, published by the returning officer, and a statement of the date and manner of the publication thereof.

In speaking to this resolution, Mr. Marter stated what were reported to him as the facts of the case. In the election a poll was opened in North Paterson, a place where a poll had not been held in previous elections. The proclamation of the returning officer did not contain notice that a poll would be held in North Paterson, nor was any notice sent to the Conservative candidate, Mr. McCormack, that such a poll was to be held. At this poll 64 votes were counted, 61 for Sharpe (the Liberal candidate and present member) and three for McCormack. Mr. Marter was credibly informed and had good reason verily to believe that there were only sixteen qualified voters in this polling district. No return was made from the Township of Spence, in which it was said Mr. McCormack had a majority of 26. But for these irregularities the majority of the sitting member would have been but 26 instead of 110, the number appearing on the returns. Mr. Marter complained of the lack of voters' lists in the unorganised districts, declaring that the absence of these official records left it with the deputy returning officers to decide who were and who were not qualified voters. He was told that in the election under consideration Conservatives were refused the right to vote, though they took the oath, while Reformers were given ballots, though they refused to be sworn. Seeing there were voters' lists for the Dominion in these unorganised districts Mr. Marter could not understand why there should be none for the Province. He