

THE LEGISLATURE.

Day Spent With the Mining Regulations.

HON. MR. HARDY'S SPEECH.

Mr. Meredith Supports the Government's Policy.

The Opposition Led by Mr. Conmee—The Toronto Bill Referred Back—Land Improvement Fund.

TORONTO, April 23.

To-day's sitting was almost altogether devoted to the consideration of the bill of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, setting forth the regulations the Government have prepared for dealing with the mining lands which remain in the possession of the Province. The address of the hon. Commissioner in explanation and support of the bill was one of the best speeches the House will hear during this session. It was the first presentation of the Government's position. The opposition which has arisen against the regulations has found fluent voice in deputations and through the press, and the defence of the hon. Commissioner will therefore be read with interest throughout the Province. He received the general support of the leader of the Opposition. In antagonism to the bill and particularly to the royalty feature, speeches were made by Messrs. Conmee, Caidwell, A. F. Campbell, Rayside, Sol. White and H. Smith. The bill was read a second time with two kindred measures, and all three were referred to the committee of the whole House.

The routine business consisted of the presentation of four petitions, and then the order paper was taken up.

Third Readings.

The following bills were given third readings:—

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

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

To incorporate the Port Arthur & Fort William Railway Company—Mr. Tait.

The Attorney-General made the following motion, which was adopted:—

"That this House will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee to consider the following resolution—That an annual salary of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) be granted to a referee for the purpose of the drainage laws, which sum shall be paid monthly, and shall be over and above his travelling expenses."

Hon. J. M. Gibson moved that the City of Toronto's bill be referred back to the Private Bills Committee for the further consideration of sections 7, 8, 13 and 16. There had been representations made with regard to the clauses of the bill referring to the Don improvements and Ashbridge's Bay which could be better considered in committee. With reference to the clauses dealing with the government of the city he had not changed his mind, but there was a desire in the minds of members of the Private Bills Committee to reconsider section 16. He was of the opinion that there were sufficient grounds for referring the bill back again, and he hoped the motion would pass.

Mr. E. F. Clarke opposed the motion. It was the first time during the session that the House has heard the smoothly-flowing periods. He directed his opposition to allowing the committee to reconsider section 16, which refers to the Government of the city, and moved an amendment that that clause be struck out of the motion of the hon. Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Fraser expressed the hope that Mr. Clarke would not press his amendment. It would save the time of the House if the question of section 16 were allowed to go back and be talked out in committee.

Mr. Wood (Hastings) and Mr. Meredith in turn spoke against the reference of section 16.

The Attorney-General said he could see nothing objectionable in the motion. It was not ignoring the committee, because this was the only time a measure had been sent back, and it was reasonable that there might be instances in which the committee, thinking they had arrived at a conclusion hastily, wished to reconsider it. He could see no objection to the motion carrying.

The House was divided on the amendment with the result that 35 members voted for it and 43 against it. The main motion was carried on the same division. Messrs. Gibson (Huron), Balfour and Biggar voted with the minority and Mr. Campbell (Durham) with the majority.

YEAS.—Balfour, Barr, Biggar, Bush, Campbell (Algoma), Clancy, Clarke, E. F. (Toronto), Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Fell, Gibson, (Huron), Glendinning, Godwin, Hammell, Hiscott, Kerns, McCleary, McColl, Magwood, Marter, Meacham, Meredith, Metcalfe, Miscampbell, Monk, Preston, Reid, Rerke, Smith (Frontenac), Tooley, White, Whitney, Willoughby, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—35.

NAYS.—Allan, Awrey, Bishop, Blezard, Bronson, Campbell (Durham), Carpenter, Chisholm, Clarke (Wellington), Cleland, Conmee, Dack, Davis, Dowling, Dryden, Évanturel, Ferguson, Field, Fraser, Garrow, Gibson (Hamilton), Gilmour, Guthrie, Harcourt, Hardy, Lockhart, Loughrin, McKay (Oxford), McKay (Victoria), McKechnie, McKenzie, H., McMahon, Mack, Mackenzie, C., Moore, Mowat, Paton, Porter, Rayside, Robillard, Ross, Sharpe, Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Tait, Waters, Wood (Brant)—43.

The House went into committee on Hon. Mr. Ross' bill to amend the act respecting dentistry and reported it unamended.

Land Improvement Fund.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt moved the House into committee on the following resolution:—

(1) There shall be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund of this Province to the townships and other municipalities entitled thereto the sum of \$53,704 92, being the proportion which may be chargeable to the Province of Ontario in respect of the sum of \$101,771 68, claimed to be payable to the Upper Canada improvement fund on sales of Crown lands made by the late Province of Canada between the 14th day of June, 1853, and 6th day of March, 1861, and money received thereon by the Province of Canada between the said 6th day of March, 1861, and the 1st day of July, 1867.

(2) The said moneys shall be paid under the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to the treasurers of the various townships and municipalities appearing to be entitled thereto under the statutes and orders in Council of the said Province of Canada in that behalf; and each township or other municipality shall be paid that portion of the said amount which was obtained from the lands sold as aforesaid, within the municipality, and such portion shall be ascertained and determined by authority of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

(3) In case of there having been any change in the boundaries of any township or other municipality, or in the case of an incorporated village or town having been formed, or its limits extended, within a township, or partly within each of two or more townships, the Councils interested may agree as to their respective proportions of the money to which each municipality is entitled; or may refer the question to arbitration; or in case they fail to agree or to arbitrate, the proportion of each shall be ascertained and determined by authority of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

(4) All moneys paid under the foregoing resolutions may be applied by the Council receiving the same for the use and benefit of the municipality in any way the Council sees fit.

The hon. Treasurer briefly traced the history of the fund, how it was originated by the Lands Act in 1853 and discontinued in 1861. The sums with which the House was asked to deal were from sales between those years. The number of counties interested was 28, and in those counties there were 210 townships interested. The delay had not been due to the Province of Ontario nor to the Dominion, but had been caused by the differences between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. Meredith and Mr. Gibson (Huron) addressed the House briefly, and the motion passed. The resolution was subsequently adopted by the House.

The Mining Bills.

Mr. Hardy rose amidst applause to deliver the speech upon the mining bills which has been looked forward to with so much interest. The Commissioner seemed somewhat hoarse at first, but by carefully husbanding his voice in the earlier part of his address he was able to speak strongly during the whole time—almost an hour and a half—he occupied. In that time he covered completely and even in some detail in places all the points at issue. He had evidently arranged the matter with some care, and though necessarily the speech was one in which clearness and not fine oratorical effect was the first consideration, it was one of the best Mr. Hardy has delivered. He began by explaining that he would ask to have the bill to amend the General Mining Act and that to amend the Public Lands Act taken together, as they involved to some extent the same questions. He proposed to deal with the question from a practical standpoint, first as to the sale of lands, and second as to the development of the mining industry. He continued:—I shall not enter upon a general disquisition upon the extent of our mining interests nor upon the principles of mining as they affect our laws. Wherever there are people who have invested capital in mining enterprises, or where the population is composed to any considerable extent of explorers or of those who develop the mines with a view to putting them on the market, there has been great interest concerning these bills. In Rat Portage, Port Arthur, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury more than a passing interest has been taken in these measures, and in Toronto, the centre of capital, where a great many men own mining lands, the subject has