

THE RAILWAY OBJECTS.

Mr. Baxter presented a petition from the Canada Southern Railway Company against the proposed incorporation of the Village of Victoria in the County of Welland. The company is the owner of a large quantity of land in the proposed village, for which it has been assessed in the Township of Bertie. It is of opinion that it is not in the general interest of the ratepayers of the village that such village should be incorporated, there being at present ample provision by the assessment and taxation of the Township of Bertie to provide for the interest of such ratepayers, and that the only effect would be to increase the assessment and taxation of the land proposed to be taken into the village without any corresponding advantage.

THE REGISTRARS' EMOLUMENTS.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) presented a return giving a variety of information regarding the registry offices of East and West Toronto, in compliance with an order of the House adopted April 10, 1891. Mr. Peter Ryan, registrar of the eastern division, reported that for the year 1890 the total amount of fees received was \$17,163; paid Provincial Treasurer for city, total refund \$6,831, less \$1,269 for abstracting, \$5,562; paid deputy registrar \$1,250; paid assistants and clerks \$3,785; paid proportion abstract clerk's salary, \$699; paid sundry office expenses, \$145; average rate per folio paid for copying, 21-2 cents; total amount received by registrar for his personal use \$5,721. Mr. Charles Lindsey, registrar of the western division, reported the total amount of fees received for 1890 was \$23,002; gross amount of rebate paid by registrar, \$9,303, of which \$6,938 was paid to the Treasurer of Ontario, the balance, \$2,364, having been disbursed in accordance with the statute. Mr. Layburn, first deputy of the western division, performs certain duties in both divisions for which he received \$1,611, of which \$911 was paid by the western division. For further deputy services \$840 was paid, making a total of \$1,751. Other assistants and clerks were paid \$7,512, and \$161 was paid for stationery. The average paid per folio for copying is a fraction under three cents. The amount received by the registrar for his personal use from fees proper was \$5,743; work imposed on registrar under statute, \$896; total, \$6,640. If they had one instead of two registry officers, the city would have received \$1,750 more. The return includes a letter from John Blevins, city clerk, stating that he has been informed by the city treasurer that the City of Toronto has incurred \$1,088 expenses in completing the divisions of the registry offices, but that in addition certain expenditures have been made on account of the division by Registrars Lindsey and Ryan and the amounts deducted from their payments into the city treasurer on account of surplus fees. The latter amount he is at present unable to state.

CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

The following committees met this morning and elected chairmen:—Railways, Mr. Hardy; Municipal, Mr. Hardy; Private Bills, Mr. Gibson (Hamilton); Privileges and Elections, Mr. Harcourt; Standing Orders, Mr. O'Connor; Printing, Mr. Balfour. The Public Accounts Committee has not yet been organised.

DIRECTORS OF ROAD COMPANIES.

Dr. McKay (Oxford) has introduced a bill to amend the General Road Companies Act by providing that Municipal Councils holding shares in roads may appoint as directors of such roads members of the Council other than the reeve.

THE POWERS OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

A deputation from the Council of the County of Middlesex, consisting of James Gilmour, reeve of Dorchester, and W. S. Calvert, Reeve of Metcalfe, waited upon the Government to-day respecting the administration of justice in that county. They were received by the Attorney-General and

Messrs. Ross, Gibson and Dryden. They asked that section 6, chapter 72, of the Revised Statutes of Ontario respecting the powers of police magistrates should be extended to counties. The section provides that no justice of the peace shall act in any case for a town or city where there is a police magistrate. They asked that the section should also prohibit a justice of the peace from acting in any case for a county as well where there is a police magistrate. It was stated that some justices of the peace were in the habit of signing warrants in blank, and that constables in this way often made unnecessary arrests. If police magistrates paid by salary had exclusive jurisdiction in the county, as they now have in cities, there would be no temptation to make arrests for the sake of the fees. As far as the County Council was concerned it had to pay the costs of cases which were discharged. The Council was thus directly interested financially. In fact the whole object of the deputation was an attack upon what is known as the bureau system. The Attorney-General intimated that he saw no objection to the proposition and would carefully consider it.

REPORT ON HOSPITALS.

The twenty-second annual report of the inspector of prisons and charities upon the hospitals of the Province, being for the year ending September 30, 1891, was presented to the House to-day. The total number of hospitals receiving aid from the Province is 27, as compared with 21 last year, the 6 new ones being St. Joseph's Hospital, London; St. Joseph's Hospital, Peterboro'; St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton; General Hospital, Galt; Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto; Hotel Dieu Hospital, Windsor. Three more are now applying—St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham; General Hospital, Stratford; Ministering Children's League Hospital, Ottawa. Seventy-five thousand four hundred and eighty dollars was voted for this branch of charity last year. The number of patients treated increased in the last ten years from 6,032 to 10,523, and the increase this year over last year was 1,336. The work done has been satisfactory, the results compare favorably with those of last year and the management of patients has been uniformly good. The following will show how the money which the Legislature will be asked to grant this year will be distributed:—General Hospital, Toronto, \$24,525; Homeopathic Hospital, Toronto, \$2,860; Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, \$4,515; City Hospital, Hamilton, \$6,132; St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, \$1,488; General Hospital, Kingston, \$5,115; Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston, \$3,569; General Protestant Hospital, Ottawa, \$4,263; Roman Catholic Hospital, Ottawa, \$5,312; House of Mercy Lying-in Hospital, Ottawa, \$2,237; General Hospital, London, \$5,318; St. Joseph's Hospital, London, \$1,342; General and Marine Hospital, St. Catharines, \$1,498; Galt Hospital, \$496; General Hospital, Guelph, \$3,497; St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, \$2,531; General Hospital, Pembroke, \$1,398; General Hospital, Mattawa, \$1,298; J. H. Stratford Hospital, Brantford, \$2,039; St. Joseph's Hospital, Port Arthur, \$1,196; Belleville Hospital, Belleville, \$1,564; St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Brockville, \$823; General Hospital, Brockville, \$1,515; General and Marine Hospital, Collingwood, \$373; Nichols Hospital, Peterboro', \$1,404; St. Joseph's Hospital, Peterboro', \$1,566; Hotel Dieu Hospital, Windsor, \$1,066; total \$89,002. The amount asked in 1890 was \$75,430, or \$13,572 less. The daily cost of inmates each was 75 cents in 1891 and 71 cents in 1890. The increase arises partly from a number of new institutions being maintained at a high figure, considerable amounts having been charged to maintenance which might properly be charged to capital, while the high price of meat, etc., in the early part of the year accounts for the rest. The proportion of the Government grant to the total maintenance decreased from 36 per cent. in 1890 to 32 per cent. in 1891. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a great increase in subscriptions and donations over last year. Seventy-one thousand