

## THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## Discussion on the Land Surveyors' Incorporation Bill.

IN COMMITTEE ON SUPPLY.

## Remuneration of the Provincial License Inspector.

BILL RESPECTING LANDS BEQUEATHED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES—PETITION RESPECTING ELECTRIC WIRES.

TORONTO, Feb. 25, 1892.

In the Legislative Assembly to-day among the petitions presented were the following:—

Dr. Gilmour—From the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, praying that an act may not pass extending the limits of Port Arthur so as to include any part of the town plot of Fort William; also from the Hudson Bay Company to the same effect.

Mr. White—From S. Sexton and others, praying for the division of the Township of Sandwich East.

Mr. Smith—From the Council of the Corporation of the County of York, praying that provision may be made for the election of high school trustees at the same time and in the same manner as public school trustees; also from the same body praying that power be given to County Councils to have the books of the registrars audited; also from the same body praying that county registrars, sheriffs, Crown attorneys, etc., be paid by salary instead of by fees.

Mr. Bronson—From the Corporation of the City of Ottawa, praying that the relation of telegraph and telephone companies to municipal corporations, whose streets they use, should be more closely defined by legislation.

## MUNICIPAL ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. Guthrie introduced a bill to amend the Municipal Act by providing that County Councils may adopt valuations of the real estate of the county made by county valuation as a basis for equalisation purposes for the period of ten years instead of five years as at present. There is a further amendment for which the City of Guelph has petitioned, to enable cities having a population less than 20,000 by by-law to dissolve the Board of Police Commissioners. Towns have that power now but cities have not. Mr. Guthrie's bill received its first reading.

On motion of Mr. Hardy the bill to consolidate the act respecting the assessment of property was read a second time.

## INCORPORATION OF SURVEYORS.

Mr. Hardy, in moving the second reading of the bill to incorporate the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors and to amend the act respecting land surveyors and the survey of lands, said that land surveyors were now a large and influential body and entitled to as much consideration as other bodies. They applied for incorporation and the bill was drafted under the direction of some of their number. It provides for the appointment of an examining board principally by the surveyors themselves. Heretofore the board was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and the cost of it was met by a small sum in the estimates. Under the new law the board will consist of a president, vice-president, four members elected by the surveyors and

two appointed by the Crown. The surveyors consented to having two members appointed by the Crown, and, in fact, were anxious that their present connection with the Crown Lands Department should be kept up in this way. The bill also provides for the disciplining of any members of the association who may act dishonorably. The bill contains nothing more than sufficient powers to enable the surveyors to work their association in a businesslike way. The only addition to the present act was that the association must keep a register in which to register their members.

Mr. H. E. Clarke—How many are unregistered?

Mr. Hardy said that none were registered before; that a list was kept by the secretary and the Crown Lands Department, and this would form a basis for a registry.

Mr. Cleland objected strongly to the bill. He held that the by-laws of the association should be made subject to revision by the Government or else the public would have no protection against the imposition of exorbitant fees. It was possible that surveyors might refuse to take an apprentice. How then could a young man learn the business. The association would become a close corporation, for that was the tendency of all such legislation. He had no objection to the bill, provided the public interest did not suffer, but that was the tendency of all this special legislation. Petitions have been presented from a number of medical men in Owen Sound against the Medical Act passed last session. He suggested again that the fees and by-laws of the association should be subject to revision by the Lieut.-Governor in Council.

Mr. Whitney said he had not examined carefully the provisions of the bill, but in reply to Mr. Cleland's observations he said he believed a bill of this kind was as much needed or more needed than any other bill. He thought the farming population should be protected against incompetent men who might act as surveyors. He believed that a bill properly drawn up would protect people against much litigation and trouble.

Mr. Balfour was opposed to this bill as he was opposed to all bills to create close corporations. He believed they were all wrong in principle. The farmers were capable of looking after themselves. The bill gave power to men who were responsible to no one but themselves. He predicted that the surveyors would come back from year to year and get further powers until they had everything in their own hands.

Mr. Awrey objected principally to the fee proposed and thought the House should hesitate long before putting a bar in the way of any young man who wished to enter the profession. An apprentice should not be compelled to pay \$20. That was an enormous fee. They would be compelled to pay this \$20 into an association from which they would derive no benefit. The meaning of the bill was to have as few surveyors as possible in the Province. (Applause.)

Mr. Wood (Hastings) saw no reason why the surveyors should not be incorporated as well as the medical men. He was not opposed to the principle of the bill, but would like to be satisfied with its provisions.

Mr. McMahon thought there was more litigation owing to the incompetency of surveyors than from any other cause. The payment of \$20 was objected to. It is supposed that a youth desiring to be a surveyor shall have a fair education. The payment was for the purpose of enabling the surveyors to carry on the board. He believed that in the near future some bill will have to be passed respecting the undertakers, not simply in the interest of the undertakers but in the interest of the public.

Mr. White was in favor of the principle of the bill, but thought it did not go far enough. Land surveyors ought to have an act of incorporation, with power to govern themselves without the assistance of the Government. He thought there ought also to be a consolidation of the law on the sub-