

Proceedings to-day were merely formal, the sitting not lasting more than a quarter of an hour, the usual amount of petitions being presented and a few bills passing their first reading. The only deviation from routine business was Mr. Meredith's question to the Government.

Mr. Balfour presented a petition from Wm. Chisholm and other owners of iron mines in the Desert Lake region, praying for incorporation as the Portlock & Desert Lake Iron Mine Railway Company. The promoters own and control certain deposits of hematite iron near Desert Lake, which they wish to have profitably mined, and to this effect wish the construction of a railway from Portlock Harbor, in the Township of Johnston, on Lake Huron, to some point at or near the iron deposits. The signers of the petition are:—Wm. Chisholm, Edward S. Page, Geo. C. Rankin, F. F. Talms and J. B. Book. Mr. Balfour also presented a petition from Neil Morrison and 87 other residents of the Townships of Johnson and Coffin, in Eastern Algoma, asking for the incorporation of the proposed railway company.

Mr. Paton presented a petition from the Township of Tiny, asking the passage of an act authorizing the issue of debentures. Mr. McKay of Oxford presented a petition from Oxford County Council asking the repeal of the clause in the municipal act relating to assessment for the purpose of erecting bridges; also a petition from the same body asking that the maximum rate per mile of railway passenger fares be two cents. Mr. A. F. Campbell presented petitions from the Townships of Orillia, Tehkummah, Laird and Macdonald in favor of Municipal Councils being given the right to raise their revenue from a tax on land values. Mr. Barr of Renfrew presented similar petitions on behalf of the Townships of Head and Pembroke; Mr. McNaughton presented similar petitions from the Townships of Albemarle and Arran, and from the Village of Port Elgin; and other petitions to the same effect were presented by Mr. Gibson of Huron, on behalf of the Township of Grey; by Mr. Field, on behalf of the Town of Cobourg; by Mr. Dack, on behalf of Kincardine Township; by Mr. Miscampbell, on behalf of Orillia Township; by Mr. Kirkwood, on behalf of the Village of Elora, and by Mr. Ferguson, on behalf of Camden Township.

Mr. Campbell of East Durham presented a petition from Port Hope, asking amendments to the libel law.

Mr. E. C. Carpenter presented a petition from Norfolk County Council asking a reduction of the fees of county officials appointed by the Government.

Dr. Gilmour presented a petition from the Township of Etobicoke asking that an act may be passed authorizing the issue of debentures; also a petition asking incorporation of the Toronto Aqueduct Company, from W. H. Comstock, David Booth, George Ira Mallory of Brockville, and Peter Ryan, Emerson Coatsworth, G. S. Macdonald, Hugh Miller, P. G. Close, C. H. Macdonald, David Hunter, J. L. Hughes, J. Knox Leske, A. W. Ballantyne and J. A. Macdonald.

Mr. E. F. Clarke presented a petition from Toronto City Council asking passage of an act whereby certain debenture by-laws may be validated, and whereby provisions may be made for the protection of motormen from cold or rain.

#### RETURNS BROUGHT IN.

Hon. Mr. Gibson laid on the table two returns. The first was the annual report of Upper Canada College. The trustees' report shows an entire revenue of \$37,977 25 for 1892-3, as against \$43,253 20 in 1891-2, while the expenditure in 1892-3 was \$15,658 40, and in 1891-2 was \$42,227 26. Thus, in 1891-2 there was a surplus of over \$4,000, while in 1892-3 a deficit of \$7,681 15 occurs. This arises mainly from the reduced number of boys in residence, there being 133, as against 165 the year before.

The reduction in attendance, in the opinion of the board, was owing to several causes; first, the financial depression which prevailed throughout the Province; secondly, the increase in the number and efficiency of the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes of the Province during the last few years; thirdly, the establishment of a number of additional residential schools for boys; fourthly, the opening of two large Collegiate Institutes in Toronto, where formerly there was but one. In 1892-3 there were increases of expenditure to the extent of \$1,800 for salaries of the staff, \$500 in the retirement fund, \$500 in the water rates, \$600 in general repairs, and \$1,212 43 in insurance; all of

which were abnormal expenditures, and will not appear in the current year. By changes made in the staff the salaries for 1893-4 will be considerably reduced. The water rate will not in all probability exceed \$300. The item for insurance will not appear at all, as the amount paid last year secures the insurance of the property for three years. The expenditure for general repairs, the board announces, can also be reduced. The estimate for the current year is that, with the present attendance, the college will have an assured income of \$31,000, and will have an expenditure of \$33,000. Some improvements have been made in the property. The reports of the masters in charge show good work, and these reports are confirmed by that of High School Inspector J. G. Hodgins, who inspected the school.

The second return was the report of the Senate of Toronto University upon the circumstances of the erection of the biological building and the question of the Park Hospital lease, and the correspondence upon the subject of medical education.

#### FIRST READINGS.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

By Mr. Tait—To amend the municipal act.

By Mr. Gilmour—To exempt homesteads.

By Mr. Gilmour—To abolish the personal covenants in mortgages.

By Mr. Whitney—Respecting witness fees.

#### A QUESTION FROM MR. MEREDITH.

Sir Oliver Mowat then moved the adjournment of the House. Mr. Meredith, however, asked the Government when the return called for two sessions ago stating the number and cost of the commissions issued for some time past will be ready for presentation. He thought it should have been brought down last session. Hon. Mr. Gibson assured him that the return would be down in a very few days, and the House then adjourned.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following notices of motion have been given:—

Mr. Meredith, inquiry—(1) Has the commission referred to in the speech of his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the session, with respect to the mode of remunerating and appointing certain Provincial officials, been issued? (2) If so, who are the commissioners?

Mr. Ryerson—Bill to amend the assessment act, 1892.

Mr. Ryerson—Bill to amend the Public Schools act.

Mr. E. F. Clarke, inquiry—Did the Government in the year 1892 or 1893 instruct

K. Stewart, Inspector of Licenses, to enquire into the operation of the license in the City of Hamilton, and as to the accommodation provided by the places to which licenses were given in the said city? Has the said Provincial Inspector made a report to the Government respecting the matters, and, if so, did he find that places were licensed which had not the requisite accommodation?

Dr. Willoughby—Return showing in how many cases since the introduction of the ballot petitions have been filed against the return of members for this Legislature and in how many of such cases has a scrutiny taken place, and what was the cost of each case of scrutiny.