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Thursday of this week, but the printers are not able to have their work through in time to permit of this. Mr. Meredith is anxious that his side of the House should have the public accounts in their hands long enough before the budget comes off to allow them to study the figures pretty closely. The Attorney-General and the Treasurer left the day pretty much to Mr. Meredith's naming, with the result that it will most likely be Tuesday next, though the point was not definitely settled.

#### PETITIONS PRESENTED.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Gilmour—The Town of Toronto Junction, in favor of taxation of church property.

Mr. Gilmour—The Town of North Toronto, to the same effect.

Mr. Hammell—The Beeton Publishing Co. of The Beeton World, for amendments to the libel law.

Mr. Davis—Messrs. L. G. Jackson of The Newmarket Era, S. H. Lundy of The Aurora Banner, W. Mallory of The Stouffville Tribune, and E. W. Burnham of The Sutton Herald, to the same effect.

Mr. Davis—The Town of Newmarket, that church lands may be taxed.

Mr. Davis—The same, for a reduction of the town's area.

Mr. McCleary—The Town of Thorold, in favor of taxation of places of worship.

Mr. McCleary—The County of Welland, that a town or village desiring to increase its boundaries must secure the consent of a majority of the ratepayers of the district to be annexed, unless able to show that the increased area is actually needed by the town or village.

Mr. McCleary—The same, to prevent the contamination of the Niagara River by the dumping of dregings and filth from Buffalo Harbor.

#### FIRST READINGS.

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

Respecting Upper Canada College—Hon. Mr. Ross.

Respecting mortgages and sales of personal property—Hon. Mr. Gibson.

Respecting Councils of Conciliation and Arbitration for the settlement of industrial disputes—The Attorney-General.

To prevent the taking of natural gas from the ground, or the forcing from the wells by means other than the natural flow—Mr. Balfour.

#### CHARGES AGAINST DR. BRYCE.

Mr. Ryerson asked :—Has a commission been appointed to inquire into the charges made by G. A. Dorian against Dr. P. H. Bryce, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health? If so, who are the members of the commission?

Hon. Mr. Harcourt—A commission has been appointed to inquire into the said charges. Mr. Fleming, Inspector of Legal Offices, is sole commissioner.

At a later period of the sitting Hon. Mr. Harcourt rose again and remarked that he was in error in regard to Mr. Fleming being sole commissioner. This was originally intended, but a medical gentleman, Dr. Rae of Oshawa, was afterwards associated with the Inspector of Legal Offices, the nature of the inquiry being such that medical knowledge must necessarily be required to deal with the subject adequately.

#### TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES.

Mr. Balfour moved for an order of the House for a return showing the number of persons employed, temporarily or permanently, by the Government, in the service of the Province, on the 31st December, 1893, together with their names, ages, nationality, religion, salary, occupation, place of residence, and date of appointment; but not including mechanics, artisans, laborers, or like employees, whose engagement or employment was of a merely temporary character. Also, a similar return as to all persons not included in the foregoing and who have been appointed by the Government to any permanent or temporary office or position under the Crown, either for or within the Province, or in, or for, or in respect of any county or any district or other locality in the Province. Also, a similar return as to all sessional clerks now employed.

There was some discussion over Mr. Balfour's motion. Mr. Meredith asked what use the second clause was. He could not see that it meant anything. He thought it would only confuse the return and suggested its withdrawal. Mr. Balfour consented to this, but could not accept Mr. Meredith's second suggestion to strike out a portion of his motion excepting from the return "mechanics, artisans, laborers, or like employees, whose engagement or employment was of a

## Some Changes in the Educational System.

### REGISTRARS AND FEES.

#### The Inspector's Report on the Registry Offices.

Brief Sessions Still the Order of the Day  
—A Question of Returns—The Budget Speech.

Legislative Chamber, Feb. 26.

The House held the customary Monday session to-day. There were one or two brief discussions, but they were of an unimportant character. The Treasurer is ready to make his financial statement on