

President Mills' Report—A Good Showing Made—A Sharp Discussion Over Departmental Reports.

Legislative Chamber, Feb. 27.

The most interesting event of to-day's sitting was the introduction to the House of the new member for South Lanark, Mr. J. M. Clark. Mr. W. C. Caldwell of the sister Riding of North Lanark and Hon. E. H. Bronson were his sponsors, and led him to the foot of the Speaker's throne, Mr. Caldwell pronouncing the necessary formula. As the new member took the Speaker's hand loud and long continued applause burst from the Government side of the House and accompanied him as he repaired to his allotted seat. That seat was by the side of Mr. Hugh Smith, the member for Frontenac. As soon as the applause subsided, Mr. Waters walked over to the new member's seat and warmly congratulated him. A moment later Mr. Hardy crossed the floor and shook him by the hand. Mr. Clark cannot complain of the reception which has been given the first Liberal member returned for South Lanark.

After this the principal incident of the session was a short discussion on the subject of printing matter relating to the various departments without first procuring the consent of the House. It was shown by members of the Government and by Mr. Balfour, Chairman of the Printing Committee, that the practice pursued by the Government is the only one consistent with the public interest. The public accounts were presented, and, this having been done a day or two earlier than anticipated, the Treasurer will now make his financial statement on Thursday after-

FROM HAMILTON TO MIMICO.

Hon. Mr. Gibson presented a petition from the Hamilton Radial Electric Street Railway Company. The company asked permission (1) to change its name to the Hamilton Radial Electric Railway Company; (2) to increase the capital stock of the company from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000; (3) power to extend its lines of railway, in addition to the lines defined by its act of incorporation, to the following, namely, from Hamilton to Niagara Falls or Queenston; from Hamilton to Brantford; from Oakville to Mimico, and from Elmira to other places in the County of Waterloo; (4) also to acquire lands for park or pleasure purposes in the different municipalities through which its lines of railway pass, to own and manage hotels along its lines, and to secure other rights incidental to the extension of its rights as above.

AID TO RAILWAYS.

Mr. Clancy asked the following question:—"How much of the sum voted by the Province in aid of railways has been paid by direct cash payments? How much have railway aid certificates or scrip been issued for, in lieu of direct cash payments, respectively, to the 31st December, 1893?"

Hon. Mr. Harcourt in reply said:—"The cash payments to December 31, 1893, have amounted to \$5,959,084 13, composed thus: Direct payments, where no certificates were issued, \$1,704,195 16, and paid on account of certificates, \$4,254,888 97. The total amount of certificates issued has been \$5,567,038 85, of which the certificates now outstanding amount to \$1,312,149 88. The present value of outstanding certificates is \$922,091 82."

ELECTION PETITIONS.

Mr. Willoughby asked:—"In how many cases, since the introduction of the ballot, have petitions been filed against the return of members to this Legislature, and in how many of such cases has a scrutiny taken place, and what was the cost in each case of the scrutiny?"

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied as follows:—"The ballot was first used in this Province at the general elections in 1875. Since the ballot was first introduced there appear to have been 82 contested election cases, made up as follows:—29 in 1875, 7 in 1879, 21 in 1883, 3 in 1886, and 22 in 1890. There have been other contested elections, but the above appear to be the only ones which went to trial, and are made up from the records found in the journals of the House. I can find no official record of scrutinies. There was one in Lincoln in 1875, and there was one in South Wentworth in 1879. I do not know whether there were others. I believe that in the petitions for unseating members formal applications for scrutinies have been made, which, however, were not found necessary, as in the majority of instances the cases were brought to a termination before it became necessary to enter upon a scrutiny of the ballot. There are no statistics available from which I can prepare a statement respecting the cost of scrutinies."

THE PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE.

Mr. McKay (Oxford) moved for an order of the House for a return from the records of the votes cast "yes" and "no" on the question of prohibition on 1st January last under 56 Vic., chap. 41, showing (1) the number of male votes polled in each municipality; (2) the number of female votes so polled; (3) the total votes cast; (4) the male and female and total majorities; (5) the number of males and females voting; (6) the number of male and female votes on voters' lists and number of such votes unpolled; (7) the number of spoiled and rejected ballots, and further return showing in detail: (8) the

male votes cast in each electoral district of the Province; (9) the majorities "yes" and "no" in each such electoral district, and the total numbers of male votes cast; (10) the total male votes on voters' lists and unpolled, and (11) a statement of votes polled at the general election for the Legislative Assembly in 1890, with the total votes on voters' lists and unpolled at such election.

PRINTING OF REPORTS.

The Attorney-General then moved the adjournment of the House, whereupon Mr. Meredith called attention to the order in Council laid before the House on the previous day awarding the printing and publishing of a new text-book on physiology and temperance to the Methodist Publishing Company. He said such matters should come before the House. The practice of the Government in printing matter without consent of the House had become altogether too common. He held a book in his hand (it was a copy of the recently published little volume on English and German schools); it was, no doubt, a very good book because its author was the Minister of Education; but he did not consider that it should have been printed without the sanction of the House or of the Printing Committee appointed by the House. He noticed from time to time the appearance, from the Education Department, of pamphlets dealing with different subjects, all of which should only have been printed with the sanction of the House. He could understand that in certain cases there might be urgent need for the publication of such documents, but it should be done only in such cases.

Hon. Mr. Ross, replying, said the Government had simply followed the usual custom in regard to the order in Council presented yesterday. It was not and never had been considered necessary to have such contracts ratified by the House. As to the other point in Mr. Meredith's remarks, the practice had always been to publish any reading matter considered to be in the public interest without the sanction of the House. All reports were prepared in that way; take for instance, the public accounts, the education report, the agricultural report, etc. It was in the public interest that these should all be published without the departments having to await the consent of the House.

Mr. A. F. Wood said Mr. Ross had wandered from the point. It was the printing of unnecessary matter that Mr. Meredith had objected to. He noticed, for instance, in report from the Inspector of registry offices yesterday a defence of the course of the Registrar of East Toronto. He did not think it came within the duty of this official to make himself an apologist for anybody, because a certain mat-