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of Toronto; and one also to the same effect from Union No. 27, Toronto, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Petitions regarding the proposed change in the libel law were presented by Mr. A. F. Wood from the publishers of The Madoc Review, the Marmora Advocate, The Sterling News-Argus; by Dr. McKay (Oxford), signed by the publishers of The Liberal and The Observer of Tilsonburg, The Norwich Gazette; The Sun, The Tribune, and The Chronicle of Ingersoll; by Mr. Miscampbell, signed by the publishers of The Packet, News-Letter and Times of Orillia, The Herald of Penetanguishene, The Free Press of Midland and The News of Coldwater; by Mr. Glendinning, from the publishers of The Uxbridge Journal, The Beaverton Express and The Cannington Gleaner; and by Mr. Moore, signed by the publishers of The Reformer of Galt, The Daily News, The Journal and The Telegraph of Berlin, and the Progress of Preston.

Mr. Tait presented a petition from the corporation of the City of Toronto, asking for the changes in the municipal and assessment acts, which are enumerated in Mr. Tait's bill now before the House, with reference to the snow-cleaning by-law, actions for damages by falls on icy pavements, and other subjects. Other petitions presented were by Major Hiscott from St. Catharines, with reference to the assessing of the property of gas companies; by Mr. Moore, from the Town of Galt, in favor of the assessing of places of worship; by Hon. Mr. Gibson, from the City of Hamilton, in favor of the city having power to change the number and terms of service of Aldermen, and from certain citizens of Hamilton, in favor of metormen's shelters; by Mr. Dack, from the Town of Kincardine, in favor of the assessing of places of worship and of certain changes in the assessment act; and by Mr. Balfour, from the Brockville Gas Light Company, requesting certain changes in their charter, so as to permit of an increase of stock, etc.

The following bill was introduced and read a first time:—

To amend the municipal act—Dr. McMahon.

The first second reading of the session was then given, the subject being Mr. Paton's bill respecting the railway debenture debt of the Township of Floss.

#### THE GRATUITY QUESTION.

Mr. Clancy moved for an order of the House for a return showing the date of the dismissal of William Young, Farm Instructor at the Reformatory for Boys at Penetanguishene; the length of time he was in the service; the cause of his dismissal; the amount paid him as a gratuity, together with the amounts, if any, paid him for rent allowance or otherwise since his dismissal. Also copies of all correspondence between the said Young and the Government or any officer thereof, relating to his dismissal, the payment of a gratuity or otherwise.

In speaking to his motion Mr. Clancy said his object was to get some information as to what the policy of the Government really was in relation to the rewarding of officials who have been in its service, and who may have been dismissed for different causes. It had been stated in the House on different occasions that gratuities were paid only in certain cases, in the case, for instance, where an official had practically worn out in the service of the Government, or had been disabled from any cause, and in the case where the office had been abolished and the official suddenly thrown on his own resources. Now the official concerned in the present case appeared not to answer to either of these cases. Mr. Young was first employed by the Government in 1887, and in 1892 he was dismissed, no cause being assigned, so far as he could learn. The office did not cease; another man was appointed. He was not disabled or worn out. There was no cause for the dismissal, so far as he could learn. He was first given leave of absence, and pay appears to have been in this way continued to him for four months at the rate of \$450 a year, and then ceases. Then he was dismissed, and the sum of \$330 appears to have been paid to him as a gratuity. Mr. Young was not living in Penetanguishene. His family was living somewhere in York, and yet he received a rent allowance of

\$60 a year. He also received four more pay, though he was on leave of absence and his successor had been appointed. That successor was a Mr. Stewart, was, Mr. Clancy believed, a friend of Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Ross—No, no.

Mr. Clancy—The hon. Minister perceives there are more than one name. He must have been a friend of some one. But I accept the hon. Minister's denial. At all events Mr. Stewart, Mr. Young's place, that gentleman

#### Good Effects of the Efforts to Preserve the Game of the Province—The Amendments Proposed.

Legislative Chamber, March 5.

The House is beginning to be industrious. A couple of motions which promised some discussion were taken up and disposed of after brief debates, and two or three second readings followed. Dr. Ryerson's bill to abolish the Toronto High School Board was discussed and withdrawn. The Minister of Education announced that his department favored the idea of union between the Public and High School Boards, and next year or the year after legislation to this effect would be given; but he did not believe in the absorption of the High School Board by the Public School Board. There was some little by-play over Mr. Ross' remark as to what he might do next session, some members of the Opposition assuring him he would not have the opportunity, and the bill was then dropped.

An interesting incident of the afternoon was the entry into the Chamber for the first time this session of the Commissioner of Public Works. He came in quietly from behind the Speaker's chair, but this did not prevent those of his fellow-members who caught sight of him applauding him heartily as he took his seat.

Before the formal proceedings began, the Speaker announced that he had received a report from the Judges acting as commissioners on estate bills, in favor of the bill regarding the property of the Synagogue of the Holy Blossom.

#### PETITIONS.

Mr. Tait presented petitions signed by the Varnishers and Polishers' Union No. 19, Toronto, and by William Moran and others in favor of a Saturday half-holiday. Mr. E. F. Clarke presented a similar petition signed by about 1,200 citizens