

# THE LEGISLATURE.

## Aqueduct and Canal Bill up for Discussion.

### SOME SEVERE CRITICISMS.

#### The Opposition Led by Hon. C. F. Fraser.

#### A Large Amount of Routine Business Disposed of—Two Meetings of the Public Accounts Committee.

Legislative Chamber, April 20.

The House put in a day of hard work and disposed of a large amount of business. Various motions were disposed of during the afternoon, and public bills and general business proceeded pretty smoothly until the ship canal and aqueduct bill was reached. It is seldom a private bill receives such an examination and criticism. Hon. Mr. Fraser, who considered the bill a most dangerous one, led the opposition, in which Mr. Meredith was an active second. The discussion, which lasted from shortly after 5 o'clock until after 10, was confined mainly to Mr. Fraser, Mr. Meredith and Mr. Gibson, Mr. Conmee and others taking a hand in occasionally. The bill received considerable amendment, especially in the direction of protecting municipalities through which the aqueduct or canal may pass.

The House will not meet to-morrow, as expected, but it will be in session every morning next week till prorogation.

Third readings occupied a longer time than usual. Hon. Mr. Ross' Upper Canada College bill, instead of being finally disposed of, received several amendments. The same was done with Mr. White's bill respecting the Windsor waterworks. Hon. Mr. Ross' bill providing for the final settlement of the Common School fund was passed.

#### THE NIPISSING BILL.

On the third reading of the Attorney-General's bill to erect Nipissing into a provisional judicial district, Mr. Meredith spoke, repeating his former objection to the county seat remaining undesignated. He declared that this was done for electioneering purposes, and concluded by moving his former amendment: That if the county town is not named by June 1, the question be settled by popular election. The Attorney-General replied that he objected in the popular interests, and that having on a former occasion given his reasons he would not now repeat them. The vote was taken without further debate and resulted in the amendment being defeated by 49 to 29, Mr. McNaughton and Mr. McCallum voting with the Government, and Mr. Campbell (Durham) with the Opposition.

#### DEPUTY POLICE MAGISTRATES.

The Attorney-General's bill respecting Deputy Police Magistrates in cities was amended by a clause which Mr. Meredith proposed and the Attorney-General concurred in, making it clear that Deputy Police Magistrates shall not receive for their own use the fees earned by them while acting for the Police Magistrate, and providing that they should go to the municipality.

#### POLICE MAGISTRATES.

Questions by members came next.

Mr. Whitney asked how many salaried Police Magistrates, for towns with a less population than 5,000, have been appointed since 1st January, 1883. How many Police Magistrates, without salary, have been appointed since 1st January, 1883? How many Police Magistrates for counties have been appointed on the application of County Councils since 1st January, 1883? How many Police Magistrates, without salary, have been appointed under section 9, R.S.O., cap. 72?

The Attorney-General replied that two salaried Police Magistrates have been appointed for such towns since January 1, 1883; that 42 unsalaried Police Magistrates have been appointed since that date; that four Police Magistrates for counties have