

the House in that direction, so that the effect which was undoubtedly intended may be attained. Then, in regard to rule 114a, it certainly must be admitted that in these petitions something has come in question touching the return or election of these hon. members. Therefore I say that, in my view, this point of order is well taken. It may be said I do not propose to argue this matter on anything but first principles, and I apprehend that the plain, innate justness and fairness of the conclusions to which I have come will commend itself. In opposition to my objection it may be possible that the precedent of December 27, 1869, may be quoted. Objection was then taken to the votes of certain hon. gentlemen, on the ground that they had a direct interest in the question. The Speaker held that the bill, which related to assessment, was of a public nature and not affected by this rule. I intend to dispose of that objection in a very few words. It cannot be contended that this proposed legislation is a public bill in the sense that an act relating to the assessment is a public bill, inasmuch as an assessment act affects every person in the Province owning property. This is not a public bill in the general acceptation of the term, and affects only a certain number of individuals, few in number. I suggest for your consideration whether this could be called a public bill or not, if there are, perhaps, only one or two cases to which it can apply. I apprehend it will be impossible to aver that in any sense this is a public bill. Therefore I leave it to you, Mr. Speaker, to decide, in order that a precedent may be established if in the future such an occasion should ever arise again.

The Speaker's Ruling.

The Speaker, in giving his ruling, said:—I think I need not take until tomorrow or any other day to give a decision on that point. I find that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery has notified the Clerk of this House of the return of hon. members sitting both on my right and on my left, and also, to my personal knowledge, that the hon. gentlemen have taken the oath of office and their seats; therefore they are, as far as I am informed, duly qualified to sit as such, and I am not called upon to decide in that respect whether they should be here or not. There can be no doubt, both from the rules of this House and the House of Commons in England, as well as in the Dominion, and I have ever been disposed to take the rules of the House of Commons in Canada as the guiding star, but I take the decisions in the House of Commons of England to be the decisions which should prevail and have always prevailed in Canada since and before Confederation. It is clearly stated in the best authority—I have

May's last edition—that no question of this kind can be raised without it be by substantive motion placed in my hands. The hon. member for Dundas has not, so far as I am aware, placed in my hands any motion to that effect. The question of pecuniary interest, according to the authority I have here and will read, must be of such a nature that it

will certainly not require to be decided in that sense at the present moment. Having read further authorities upon the subject, he decided that the point of order was not well taken.

The motion for the second reading was carried on the same division.

Provincial Estimates.

The Speaker read the following message from the Lieutenant-Governor:—The Lieutenant - Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the Province until the estimates for the year 1899 are finally passed, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly:—

Civil Government	\$ 60,000
Legislation	85,000
Public institutions, maintenance	150,000
Education	40,000
Administration of justice	50,000
Miscellaneous	40,000
Total	\$425,000

The House then adjourned until 8 o'clock Monday evening.

Voucher for the Ewes.

The following is a copy of an invoice rendered to Mr. Brown, farm manager, Ontario Agriculture College, by Mr. James Glennie, for sheep furnished by him in 1884:—

Guelph, Dec. 4, 1884.

Mr. Brown,—Bought of James Glennie—Four Hamps, Down Ewes, in lamb, \$150.

No. J. M. 12. In Duplicate.
Amount \$150.

Guelph, February 28, 1885.

Received from the bursar of the Ontario Agriculture College by cheque on the Bank of Commerce, dated February 28, 1885, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, in full of amount rendered to W. Brown, February 15, 1885.

J. Glennie.

Voucher No. 12.
Certified correct—A. McCallum.
Approved—W. Brown.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. Brower, on Tuesday next, inquiry of Ministry—What amount of money was paid to the four officials in East Elgin appointed by A. H. Woodbridge, Inspector, under the San Jose scale act? How many days was each official employed, and how much money did each one individually receive? What amount was paid for travelling expenses in each case?

The Attorney-General, on Tuesday next—That the rules of this House respecting the times for reception of petitions for private bills, the introduction of private bills, and the reception of reports of standing or select committees on private bills be suspended, and the times for the said several purposes be extended, so as to provide that the same shall run from the date of the reopening of the Legislature, after the adjournment of the House, in the early part of 1899, and that the said date of reassembling shall, for the purposes of the said rules and all necessary proceedings, in all respects be treated as the first day of the session.

The Attorney-General—On Tuesday next—A bill respecting voters' lists in certain cities.