

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, 8th March, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

### BILLS INTRODUCED.

To amend the law respecting indemnity to members of the Legislature, and to reduce the amount of said indemnity.—Mr. McConkey.

To explain section 121 of the assessment law of Upper Canada.—Mr. McConkey.

To amend the assessment law of Upper Canada, so far as relates to the assessing of personal property, and for other purposes therein mentioned.—Mr. Conger.

### COMMITTEES.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved that the report of the select committee appointed to select standing committees be adopted.

Mr. McCONKEY enquired why the suggestion he had made, to the effect that a standing committee should be appointed on Municipal matters, had not been carried out?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD replied that the subject was considered by the Committee, but it was not thought advisable to appoint a standing committee. A select committee would be struck for the session, composed of some of the most experienced members of the House on such matters, to which committee all Bills and resolutions coming before the House on municipal questions could be referred.

Mr. DUNKIN inquired whether two committees—one for Upper and one for Lower Canada—should be appointed. He thought only one should be appointed, and that a large one, so that leading members of each section should become somewhat better acquainted with the working of municipal institutions in the other sections. The House was burdened with measures affecting municipalities, and the committee would be of very great advantage in facilitating business.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD thought that perhaps it would be better to have but one, though they would be able to despatch the business better by being divided.

### BANKING AND INSURANCE.

Mr. DUNKIN moved that the Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance be hereafter designated the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Trade, and that all bills and resolutions coming before the House, except Government measures, relating to banking, insurance and other incorporated companies of a commercial character, that might by the order of the House be referred to select committees, be referred to said committee. This would give to that committee, he remarked, the same powers as those possessed by the Committee on Railways, and facilitate business.—Motion carried.

### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Hon. Mr. DORION introduced a Bill concerning the Administration of Justice in Lower Canada. He observed that this Bill proposed to make several changes of an important nature. He would mention for instance that it was proposed to abolish the present system of holding the Superior Court with only one Judge, and to establish the system of holding it with three. As the present number of Judges would not be sufficient it would be necessary to appoint a number of County Judges. It would be also desirable to move out of the hands of the Clerks of the Court, in the several districts, the judicial power with which they are invested by the present law. The Bill would make provision for the holding of Quarter Sessions in the new districts, and the convenience of a prisoner, charged with an offence of a minor nature, being held over for trial until the half-yearly term of the Court of Queen's Bench, would be therefore avoided. The expenses resulting from the appointment of six or eight County Judges, would, in his opinion, be amply made up by the saving to the country arising from the more rapid and effective administration of Justice. The County Judges would have jurisdiction in all Superior Court cases, out of term, and in cases of default; they also would try all matters within the jurisdiction of Judges of the Session of the Peace. The hon. gentleman went on to notice several minor changes contemplated by the measure; and observed that there were some alterations not of an important character in the matter of practice. For example, it was proposed to abolish the articulation of fees, and to make certain changes with regard to inscriptions de faux. The House would have an opportunity of considering the whole matter when the Bill was submitted. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. CARTIER hoped that everything proposed by the Hon. Attorney General East, with the design of lessening the expense of the administration of Justice in Lower Canada, would meet with the earnest attention of the House. (Hear.)

## THE SUPPLIES.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON moved the House into Committee of Supply, which being carried, the Committee, after consideration, rose and reported a resolution granting a supply to Her Majesty.

The report was received, and was ordered to be taken into consideration on Friday next.

### BILLS FROM LAST SESSION.

Hon. Mr. DORION stated that there were two Bills which had passed by the Assembly last session, which had not gone through the Legislative Council. There were also eight or ten that had passed the Upper House, which had not come before this House. The difficulty was that if either House were to go on and complete the passage of those Bills, there would be no record found in the other House of their having been passed in it the same session. He, therefore, proposed that the two Bills referred to—the Hamilton Debt Bill, and the Bill respecting Improvement for Debt—should be passed *pro forma*, so that an entry could be made upon the Journals. The same process was being carried out in the Legislative Council relating to the Bills that had passed that House last session, and been sent down to this.

### THE LIBRARY.

Hon. Mr. DORION moved the appointment of a Select Committee composed of the Hon. Messrs. J. S. Macdonald, Turcotte, Macdonald (Kingston), Mowat, Alley, Cauchon, McGee, McDougall, Brown, and Messrs. Dunkin, Bell (North Lanark), and the mover, to assist Mr. Speaker in the direction of the Library, so far as the interests of this House are concerned, and to act as members of a Select Committee of Both Houses on the Library.—Carried.

It was then resolved that a Message should be sent to the Upper House informing that House of the passage of the above resolution.

### ADJOURNMENT.

Owing to the fact that none of the Bills upon the Order paper were printed—except one of Hon. Mr. Huntington's, to proceeding with which Hon. Mr. Cartier objected, because he had not had time to read it,—

Hon. Mr. LORION moved that the House adjourn until to-morrow.

The House accordingly adjourned at fifteen minutes past four.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, March 9th, 1864.

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock. After routine.

### RECIPROCITY TREATY.

The SPEAKER announced a Message from the Legislative Assembly informing the Council that they had appointed a Committee, (the names of the members of which were given,) to consider the subject of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States and requesting the Council to co-operate by the appointment of a Committee of their own to act in concert.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE the matter was agreed to be taken under consideration on Friday next.

### RETURN TO ADDRESSES.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSSON BLAIR reported a return to the Address of the House for a statement of the timber exported into the United States, &c., during the last five years, and another exhibiting the mineral resources of the Province.

### MINING COMPANIES.

Hon. Mr. SANBORN introduced a Bill whereby Mining Companies might obtain charters of incorporation, and in submitting the measures the hon. member said, that as many such Companies were now seeking to be incorporated, and it was proper if possible to relieve the Statute Book from a multitude of Acts the objects of which could be as well attained by a general measure, he had thought, if such a measure, satisfactory to all parties, could be prepared, it would be very desirable to have it passed. He had made the attempt, and in the Bill now submitted had embodied all the rules and regulations found in the private charters. Such a measure would considerably reduce the cost attending the passage of individual Bills, and with certain other provisions would do away with the prejudices entertained against general Acts. The objections to such Acts applied to an appearance of want of authenticity and vagueness especially in the eyes of foreigners. These objections might be removed, as he imagined, by enacting that the Charters should be issued in the form of patents to be registered, and that the imprint of the Queen's Printer, and the certificate of Registration should be taken as *prima facie* evidence in Courts of Justice. As other honorable members would no doubt take an interest in the

subject, he would be glad to have their assistance in making the Bill as perfect as possible. The Bill was then read a 2nd time.

### LIBRARY.

The SPEAKER announced a message from the Legislative Assembly naming the Committee appointed by that branch to co-operate with that of the Council as a Joint Library Committee.

### COLONIZATION.

On motion of Hon. Mr. BUREAU the *quorum* of the Colonization Committee was reduced to five; the name of Dr. Malhot omitted from the Journal was ordered to be inserted, and Hon. Messrs. Masson, Chaffers and Cormier were added to the Committee. The House then adjourned.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

### PETITIONS.

A petition was presented by Mr. Dunkin praying for the incorporation of a new Montreal Ocean Steamship Company. Mr. Buchanan presented eight or ten petitions, praying for the passage of the Hamilton Debt Bill. Mr. Dickson, Mr. White, Hon. Mr. M'Gee, and others, each presented a number of petitions, praying for the passage of Mr. Dunkin's Temperance Bill. Mr. A. M'Kenzie, Mr. M'Kellar, and others, each presented several petitions for the establishment of an Inebriate Asylum in the City of Toronto.

### BILLS INTRODUCED.

To amend the Act incorporating the Asylum of Good Shepherds.—Mr. Langevin.

To relieve the Western Building Society.—Mr. White.

To amend the Municipal Act of Upper Canada.—Mr. Powell.

To amend Chapter 24 of the Municipal Act of Lower Canada.—Mr. Bellerose.

To incorporate the Congregational College of British North America.—Mr. Dunkin.

To enable the Municipality of Yorkville to consolidate its debt.—Mr. Wright, of East York.

To amend the Act relating to Corrupt Practices at Elections.—Mr. Powell.

To abolish the property qualification required from members of the Legislative Assembly.—Mr. Scoble.

To amend the Ottawa River Navigation Company.—Hon. Mr. Ross.

To incorporate the Ladies' House of Refuge, of London, C.W.—Hon. Mr. Carling.

### BANK OF MONTREAL.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON laid upon the table a Return containing papers, &c., relating to the transfer of the Government bank account from the Bank of Upper Canada to the Bank of Montreal.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CARTIER, the Return was ordered to be printed.

### PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

A discussion took place upon the supply of copies of Bills, Reports, &c., to the members. Several members complained that they did not receive enough French copies.

Mr. DICKSON thought every member ought to receive a number of copies proportionate to the number of his constituents. Instead of four, he ought to receive seventeen copies. (Laughter.) The subject then dropped.

### THE EASTER RECESS.

Hon. Mr. BROWN asked when it was the intention of the Government to adjourn for the Easter recess? It was desirable to know as soon as possible, so that hon. members might make their arrangements.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said the Government had no desire to adjourn. In fact, in this matter of the Easter adjournment, it was not the action of the Government, but the desire of the House which controlled the course to be taken.

Mr. DUNKIN said the meaning which he derived from the answer of the hon. Attorney General West was that there was to be no adjournment at Easter. (Cries of "No, no"—"No recess.")

After some conversation—  
Mr. T. FERGUSSON said he wished to know whether it was an understood thing that the House would adjourn from the Wednesday before Easter until the Tuesday following?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that when the motion for an adjournment was made, hon. members could then regulate the time. (Cries of "No adjournment.")

AN IRON MEMBER suggested that the hon. member for South Simcoe might give notice of a motion in the course of his remark, so as to bring the question before the House.