Quebec railway to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and for other purposes.

To incorporate the Alberta Railway and Coal Company.

To incorporate the Pictou Mutual Marine Insurance Company.

To amend the Act incorporating the Ottawa, Waddington, and New York Railway and Bridge Company.

To incorporate the Saskatoon and Northern Railway.

To incorporate the Commercial Bank of Manitoba.

To incorporate the Owen Sound Dry-dock, Shipbuilding, and Navigation Company.

An Act respecting the Ontario and Quebec Railway Company.

Respecting the winding-up of the Spring Hill and Parrsboro' Coal and Railway Company and the sale of the property thereof to the Cumberland Coal and Railway Company.

To incorporate the Atlantic Mutual Marine Insurance Company.

To incorporate the Nova Scotia Mutual Marine Insurance Company.

Respecting the International Railway Company.

To amend the Act incorporating the Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

CANADA PACIFIC RAILWAY LOAN.

Sir R. CARTWRIGHT admitted the road was a national necessity, but was, he thought, a *non sequitur* that we must finish it in two years. There was no obligation on the part of the company to finish the road in two years. The grades on the Kicking Horse pass were too great. In referring to the Opposition press, he fervently wished that the press and people of Canada were animated by the same spirit displayed by the press and people of the United States in respect to their country.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell), in following Sir Richard Cartwright, referred to the haphazard statements of that gentleman, and pointed out that Sir Richard Cartwright's unfavourable review of the history of the Conservative party since 1852 was a review of a period during which he was the humble follower of the leader of the Conservative party. His explanation of the difference between the loan of money to the Grand Trunk and the loan to the Canadian Pacific railway, as also his reference to two other precedents of money loaned to railways by the Government, in both of which the advances made were repaid, namely, the Great Western and the Northern, were very clear and concise.

Mr. WOODWORTH gave a short history of the efforts of the Mackenzie Government to secure the construction of the road, their failure and subsequent efforts of the present Government, which, after great pains, resulted in the signing of a contract, under which we have come within a measurable distance of the completion of the road. He showed that the moment the Reformers went into opposition they went back on their record and systematically decried the country, the railway, and everything connected therewith. It was in keeping with their record, as an opposition, that they should oppose the temporary aid required mainly through the persistent efforts of the Opposition to destroy the enterprise.

The House closed at one o'clock.

OTTAWA, Feb. 11th.

PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTS.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY laid on the table report of the Finance Department on the accounts between Ontario, Quebec and the Dominion.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The following bills were introduced and had a first time:

To incorporate the Guelph Junction Railway Company; respecting the Central Ontario railway; to incorporate the Ranchers' Bank of Canada; respecting the Manitoba South-Western Colonization Railway Company; to incorporate the Alberta Bridge Company; to incorporate the Calgary Water Works Company; to incorporate the Calgary Omnibus Tramway and Transfer Company.

INSOLVENT ESTATES.

Mr. BEATY introduced a bill to provide for the equitable distribution of the assets of insolvent debtors.

The bill was read a second time.

SECOND READINGS.

The following private bills were read a second time:—

To authorize the Royal Canadian Insurance Company to reduce the number of their directors.

To incorporate the Live Stock Insurance Company.

Respecting the Northern Railway Company of Canada.

To incorporate the Gananoque, Perth, and James' Bay Railway Company.

Respecting the Northern and North-Western Junction Railway Company.

To increase the harbour accommodation of the city of Toronto, to extend the Esplanade, and to provide for the control of the use thereof by the railway companies.

To amend the Act to incorporate the Synod of Saskatchewan, and for other purposes.

To incorporate the River St. Clair Tunnel Company.

To reduce the capital stock of the Maritime Bank.

An Act respecting the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company.

An Act to incorporate the Quebec Railway Bridge Company.

NORTH-WEST MILLING INTERESTS.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron) enquired if any of the saw and grist mills erected by the Dominion of Canada in the North-West Territories had been sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of? If so, how disposed of, when, to whom, at what price, now paid or payable, were they disposed of by public auction or private sale?

Sir JOHN MACDONALD said a saw and grist mill on Old Man's river had been sold to Peter McLaren for $10,000, half down, and the balance in five annual instalments, with interest at 6 per cent. It was stipulated in the bargain that the purchaser was to grind all the produce for the Indians at half-price, and to supply lumber for the next five years at $20 per thousand.

THE MEMBER FOR KENT.

Mr. Patterson (Essex) and Mr. Wigle introduced Mr. Smyth, member-elect for the county of Kent.

Mr. Smyth took his seat amidst loud applause from the Ministerial side.

A SCHOOL OF NAVIGATION.

Mr. AMYOT moved for all correspondence between the Dominion Government and the Government of Quebec on the subject of the school of Navigation of Quebec, and asked for a subsidy from the Dominion Government to the said school. In a brief speech the hon. gentleman strongly advocated the granting of a subsidy to the institution.

Hon. Mr. McLELAN said some years ago a grant of $1,000 was given to the naval school, but as the number of men in training fell off the grant was withdrawn. Now that there was had to train as officers for coasting vessels the school might be re-established, in which event it might be well to consider the advisability of making the grant again.

The motion was carried.

HUDSON BAY ROUTE.

Mr. ROYAL moved that a select committee, to consist of Messrs. Scott, Ross, Watson, Dawson, Abbott, White (Cardwell), Baker (Victoria), Woodworth, Foster, Paint, Pecken, and the mover, be appointed to take into consideration the question of the navigation of Hudson Bay. He stated that in Manitoba, in Dakota, and Minnesota there was a very strong feeling in favour of building a Hudson Bay railway. The only question to be decided was as to whether the Bay was navigable or not. Some were of opinion that it was. Others were of a different mind. It would not do, however, to rely upon mere hearsay on such a subject as this. Years ago, it would be remembered, the opinion was entertained that the St. Lawrence was not navigable, and that it was a frozen stream, but all that had proven to be incorrect. It would, no doubt, turn out that the views unfavorable to Hudson bay were equally unfounded.

The motion was carried, the names of

Continued on Fifth Page.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FIFTH PARLIAMENT--FIRST SESSION

TORONTO, Feb. 6.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following bills were introduced and read the first time:—

To amend the Consolidated Municipal Act, 1883; the Mechanics' Liens Act; the Municipal Act; the Act respecting under-drainage; the Act respecting the expenditure of public funds in certain cases; the Consolidated Municipal Institutions Act; the Act respecting ditches and watercourses; and to enable widows and unmarried women to vote at municipal elections.

A CASE FOR CONSIDERATION.

Mr. ERMATINGER moved for a return of all correspondence and papers connected with the estreated bail bonds of one Montgomery, committed for trial by the Police Magistrate of St. Thomas for burglary, and his sureties.

Mr. MOWAT said the case was under consideration. He could not yet express an opinion as to what the Government would do, but the case would be treated on its merits.

The motion was then withdrawn.

THE SHRIEVALTY OF ESSEX.

Mr. WHITE moved for a return of all correspondence, reports and papers, connected with the dismissal of John McEwen from the office of sheriff of the county of Essex, and of the appointment in his place and stead of John C. Iler.

Mr. MOWAT said the former sheriff, at the suggestion of the Inspector of Prisons, had been removed on the ground of incapacity.

The motion was adopted.

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS.

Mr. CREIGHTON moved for a return of copies of all correspondence between the Government of Ontario, or any member thereof, and the Government of Canada, or the Government of Quebec, or any members thereof, respectively, subsequent to that already brought down relative to a settlement of the outstanding accounts between the said Governments, or of the Land Improvement Fund. He said this question had been before the House repeatedly, and last session the Provincial Treasurer had stated that a basis of settlement of the question had been arrived at. This settlement had not yet taken place, and he trusted that there would be no further delay.

Mr. ROSS (Provincial Treasurer) acknowledged that delays had taken place from time to time on this question. He thought that when the correspondence was brought down it would show that one of the first steps he had taken was to deal with the matter.

The motion was agreed to.

SALOON LICENSES.

Mr. CARNEGIE moved for a return of the number of hotel and saloon licenses authorized to be granted in the town of Peterboro' for the year 1883-4, under the Crooks Act, and of the number of such licenses actually granted.

Mr. HARDY said there was no objection to the return, but the information required was not kept in the department. The License Commissioners sent a requisition to the department for the number of licenses required by law, according to the population of the different municipalities as based on the last census.

Mr. CARNEGIE said that no special census had been taken in the town of Peterboro'. The duty of the Government was to see that the commissioners performed their duties, and to dismiss them if they did not, as they were in the habit of dismissing other officers.

Motion passed.

MINING LANDS.

Mr. WOOD moved for a return showing:—1. The several lots in the townships of Tudor, Wollaston, Limerick, and Faraday, in the county of Hastings, which have been sold, located, disposed of, or applied for since January 1st, 1880. 2. The dates of said sales; the persons to whom sold; the prices paid and terms of payment. 3. The dates of the several applications for the purchase or location of said lots. 4. Copies of all correspondence with the Crown Lands Department with reference to any of the said lots to which conflicting claims have been made. He said that in the townships mentioned in the motion there were valuable mineral lands, and a great many complaints were being made by the settlers as to the way the land was being disposed of, and their rights interfered with. It was said that one gentleman had got hold of fifteen or twenty thousand acres. A very strong feeling was current in that section of the country against the course being pursued. It was said that certain parties had had advantages conferred on them which the ordinary settlers did not possess, and he would like the correspondence brought down to show if that were the case. A gentleman had told him that the Assistant Commissioner had made a mistake, and that he had had to get a political friend to go with him to the Commissioner to get the matter rectified.

Mr. PARDEE denied that any favouritism had been shown by the Government in any case, all parties being treated alike. The Assistant Commissioner had made a mistake, which had been corrected without the intervention of any political friend. The fourth paragraph in the resolution was unreasonable and would have to be modified.

Mr. MEREDITH—That is the point of the motion.

Mr. PARDEE said it would take several months. He would allow his friend to see what correspondence he desired, if the fourth paragraph were left out.

The motion passed with the amendment suggested.

MUSKOKA DAM SLIDE AND BOOM COMPANY.

Mr. CARNEGIE moved for a return of copies of the annual reports of the Muskoka Dam Slide and Boom Company for 1882 and 1883. He complained that the report moved for last session had not yet been brought down. Complaints were made about the monopoly of this company, and of their appropriating unmarked timber belonging to gentlemen using their drives.

The motion passed.

MOTIONS.

Mr. MEREDITH moved for a return showing the population of the village of Gravenhurst according to the last Dominion census. Also the number of tavern licenses granted in the said village during the license years 1881-2, 1882-3, and 1883-84. Carried.

Mr. MEREDITH moved for a return showing what lands in the district of Algoma (including the disputed territory) have been sold or disposed of since the 1st January, 1882, with the names of the persons to whom such lands were sold, and the price per acre paid or agreed to be paid therefor, and how much of it still remains unpaid, and, so far as practicable, the names of the persons by whom such lands are now owned or held. Carried.

ALGOMA MINERALS.

Mr. ERMATINGER moved for a return showing in detail all sums paid or claimed for specimens of minerals or other products of the District of Algoma during the past year, for exhibition in Ontario or elsewhere, with the names of all persons by whom and to whom such payments were made, or by whom such claims were made, together with all papers, documents or communications conferring upon any person or persons authority to collect such exhibits, and all reports or communications made to the Government or any member or officer thereof by such person or persons. He stated that an advertisement signed "J. R. Pattullo" had been circulated offering money prizes for collections of Algoma minerals as stated in the resolution, and as no appropriation had been made for the purpose, he wished the information asked for.

The motion carried.

THE ESTIMATES.

A message was brought down from the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting the interim estimates as follows:—

Civil Government	$35,000
Legislation	80,000
Immigration	5,000
Education	100,000
Administration of Justice	40,000
Public Institutions—Maintenance	50,000
Crown Lands—Expenditure	60,000
Miscellaneous	10,000
Agriculture	2,500
Total	$382,500

The House resolved itself into Committee of Supply on the estimates, which were reported and adopted.

The House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

TORONTO, Feb. 7.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr. Badgerow—Annual conference of the Free Methodist Church of Canada, for an Act of Incorporation.

Mr. Mowat—Wm. Feurter *et al.*, of North Oxford, that a writ may issue to fill the seat of the Hon. Adam Crooks in Oxford.

Mr. Drury—Agricultural and Arts Association, for amendments to the Canada Thistle Act.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. MOWAT said that he considered it would only be right to make some statement in regard to the changes which had taken place in the composition of the Cabinet. He referred to the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Wood as Provincial Treasurer, the appointment of Mr. Young, and his resignation subsequently on the ground of ill-health, he being succeeded by the hon. member for Huron (Mr. A. M. Ross). Regarding the Minister of Education, the sad cause which had rendered unavoidable a new Minister was well known. He referred to the career of the present Minister in educational work. In the House there were members, any one of whom would have discharged the duties of Minister extremely well, and he might state that in selecting the hon. member for West Middlesex it was not done without personal conference with every one of those members whose names had been mentioned in connection with the office. With regard to the policy of the department, in the main it would be the same as had been pursued hitherto. If there were any changes it would be in matters of detail, which, perhaps, the same Minister would have made had he continued in office. One subject had excited considerable interest in the country, viz., the question whether there should be one or two series of new readers. The former Minister of Education thought on the whole that whatever advantages there were in one set the advantages of having more than one were greater. The practice of having more than one series was a practice which prevailed in England, and also, he believed, in everyone of the States of the Union, and the committee which had been appointed to consider the question with only one exception reported in favour of more than one series being sanctioned. Under these circumstances the acting Minister of Education could not see his way clear to reverse that, and had the Government done so no doubt hon. gentlemen opposite would have cried out monopoly or centralization. (Laughter.) The present Minister had always thought that one set of readers was extremely desirable, and he was of opinion that he could make an arrangement for one set being authorized. It was extremely probable that that course would be taken, and in that there was a variation from the policy previously pursued.

Mr. MEREDITH said it was to be regretted that, when there was a vacancy in the office of Minister of Education, they had not abandoned the principle of having a politician at the head of the department. He was satisfied the thinking portion of the public were convinced that it was a mistake when the change was made from the old system, and when the plan was adopted of having a resident Minister at the head of educational affairs. He thought it was well to avoid sectional matters, but he called attention to the fact that with the exception of the Commissioner of Public Works all the members of the Government were from the section west of Hamilton. He then spoke of the representation of the farmers in the Cabinet. The hon. gentleman had now not only five out of six who were lawyers but had taken in one that they made so by Act of Parliament. There ought to be a representative of the farmers in the Cabinet.

THE RAT PORTAGE BRIGADE.

Mr. MEREDITH asked for—1. The dates when George R. Pattullo and George Burden were appointed commissioners in the disputed territory. 2. Whether they were appointed by commission, and if not, how they were appointed. 3. What salary or renumeration it was provided or agreed that the commissioners were to receive or they have actually received. 4. Whether the employment of the commissioners still subsists, and if not, when it was determined.

Mr. MOWAT replied that in regard to the first question Messrs. Pattullo and Burden were appointed commissioners on the 12th of June last. Secondly, they were appointed under a commission under the authority of the Act. They had other duties besides those resulting from their commission. Mr. Burden was Chief of Police, but he had no commission as such. Messrs. Burden, Pattullo, and Lyon were afterwards an Advisory Committee to look after the interests of the province on the various questions constantly arising between Manitoba and Ontario. Mr. Pattullo also was superintendent of the work of collecting the minerals and productions of the country which were sent to the Toronto and other exhibitions. Thirdly the salary of Mr. Burden was at the rate of $1,600 a year, with expenses covering board and lodging. That was a temporary arrangement. Mr. Pattullo while engaged in professional work was paid at the rate of $5 a day with expenses. They had not received a settlement in full. Fourthly, in a sense the employment of the commissioners still subsisted. They had not prepared their report, the work having been delayed by the illness of Mr. Pattullo.

Mr. MEREDITH—Are their duties still continued?

Mr. MOWAT—I suppose so; until the termination of the arrangement.

THE ALGOMA ELECTION.

Mr. MEREDITH enquired, 1. Whether any poll was opened and held at the last election for the electoral district of Algoma at Batchewaning, Nepigon Bay, or Algoma Mills; 2. Whether polls were omitted to be opened and held at any other places which were named in the returning officer's proclamation, and, if so, at what places; 3. Whether in the opinion of the Attorney-General the said election is by reason of the omission to open and hold the polls which were omitted to be opened and held invalid; 4. Whether the Attorney-General has advised that the omissions to open and hold any of the polls which should have been opened and held would render invalid the said election?

Mr. MOWAT, in reply to the first question, said that no poll was opened at Algoma Mills. The election was held on the 28th September. The deputy returning officer left Owen Sound—(hear, hear)—by the steamer Beacher two days before the polling day, but a storm sprang up—(laughter)—and the vessel had to shelter, the returning officer thus not arriving in time to open the poll. No voter was prevented on that account from giving his vote, as a railway train was run from Algoma Mills to the next polling place, Serpent River, and took all the voters.

Mr. MEREDITH—Is the hon. gentleman telling us that from his own knowledge. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. MOWAT said he was not there—(renewed laughter)—but he made inquiries and looked into the papers and obtained all the information possible. There was a poll open at Nepigon, the village he was told being three miles from the Bay and on the river running into it. A poll was not held at Batchewaning, as most of the voters there had removed to Mamainse Mines, but there was a poll held in the Batchewaning district. Regarding the second question, polls were omitted to be opened a Rainy River and Fort Frances, and the ret turning officer had not sent down a report to show how that came about. The person intrusted with the ballot boxes for Keewatin, Rat Portage, and these two places left Port Arthur seven days before the 28th in ample time, but on arriving at Rat Portage it was found that the boat for Rainy River had left before the arrival of the train. He immediately endeavoured to obtain another tug but without success, and then engaged canoes from the H. B. Co. He started on the 23rd, but another storm sprang up—(loud laughter)—probably part of the same storm—(renewed laughter)—which prevented him from reaching his destination in time. There were only 23 resident voters at Rainy River, and had all voted for Mr. Plummer it would not have affected the result of the election. To the fourth question he said he did not recollect that he gave any advice either way.

MOTIONS.

Mr. MEREDITH moved an address to the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he would lay on the table of the House:—1. Copies of the commissions issued to George R. Pattullo and George Burden, the commissioners appointed in connection with the disputed territory; 2. Copies of the instructions issued to the commissioners; 3. Copies of all communications which have passed between the said George R. Pattullo and George Burden, or either of them, and any member or officer of the Government from the date of their appointment to the 1st day of January, 1884; 4. Copies of all orders-in-Council passed with reference to the appointment of the commissioners or their duties or otherwise in relation to their transactions. Carried.

Mr. MEREDITH moved an address to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will cause to be laid before the House:—1. A statement showing in detail all claims brought before the Commissioners appointed in the disputed territory (Messrs. Pattullo and Burden), or either of them; the dates when they were made, and the disposal made of them by the commissioners, and when such disposal was made. 2. A statement in detail of all expenditures for salaries and otherwise in connection with the commission issued to them. Carried.

Mr. MEREDITH moved an address to the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he would cause to be laid before the House:—1. A statement showing in detail all moneys expended in or in connection with the disputed territory or its government since June last, showing the persons to whom such moneys were paid, and the purposes for which the same were expended. 2. A like statement as to the pecuniary liabilities incurred for the like purposes, and which have not yet been discharged. 3. A statement showing in detail the number of constables and peace officers employed by or on behalf of the province since 1st July last in the disputed territory, such statement to contain a record of the number employed each day, and to show the amount of the daily expenditure for such service. 4. A statement showing in detail the sums of money remitted to any person since 1st July, 1883, to be expended in the disputed territory, and the persons to whom and the purpose for which the same were sent. 5. Copies of all instructions given with regard to the conduct or management of the police force and their duties. Carried.

Mr. MEREDITH moved an address to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will cause to be laid before the House:—1. A statement showing what timber cut in the disputed territory, outside the railway belt, has been seized by or under the instructions of the Government, and the names of the persons, firms, or companies in whose possession the timber seized was at the time of its seizure, and the approximate quantity affected by each seizure, and whether such seizures (if any,) are still maintained, and if so, in what way. 2. A statement showing in detail the receipts since the 14th July, 1883, for the dues in respect of timber cut in the disputed territory and the persons by whom the dues were paid. 3. Copies of all instructions given to Mr. Aubrey White in respect of such timber, and of all correspondence between him and any member or officers of the Government between the 14th July, 1883, and the 1st day of January, 1884. Carried.

THE ALGOMA ELECTION.

Mr. MEREDITH moved for an address to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will cause to be laid before the House a return of:—1. Copies of the Writ of election for the holding of the last election for the electoral district of Algoma. 2. All instructions to the returning officers. 3. All correspondence between the returning officer and any member or officer of the Government. 4. All orders-in-Council fixing the places for opening and holding polls at the said election. 5. All petitions or applications to His Honour with reference to the fixing of such places or the changing of the places so fixed. 6. All communications between any member or officer of the Government and any other person, with reference to the fixing or changing of such places. 7. All requisitions or applications made to the returning officer with reference to the fixing of such places or adding to the number of them. And for a statement showing the polling places fixed by statute, and at which such places polls were not opened and held. And for a copy of the return made by the returning officer. After considerable discussion the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

TORONTO, Feb. 8.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Morris—Of Wm. J. McMicking *et al.*, of Toronto, for a manhood suffrage.

By Mr. Clancy—Of Agricultural Society of Kent, respecting the free distribution of the surplus produce of the Agricultural Farm.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following bills were introduced and read the first time:—

To amend the Municipal Act; to amend the Consolidated Municipal Act 1883; to amend the Act respecting short forms of mortgages; to amend chapter 161, R. S. O., respecting Mutual Fire Insurance Companies.

RETURNING OFFICERS' EXPENSES.

Mr. CREIGHTON moved for a return showing in detail all sums claimed by, or allowed to returning officers, deputy-returning officers, or other persons for services and expenses in connection with the last election in the district of Algoma.

Carried.

SCHOOL FUNDS AND GRANTS.

Mr. WOOD moved for a return showing the assessed value of property in each school section for the year 1883; the amount raised in each section for ordinary school purposes, with the rate on the dollar for the same year; the amounts received by each section from the Government grant for the same year; the length of time in said year the schools in each section were kept open; the class of certificates held by the teacher in each section; and, so far as practicable, the area of acres in each section, or generally, about the number of acres in each section. He said that a great deal of difficulty had arisen in reference to the expenditure of the Government grants to the schools. Many persons were under the impression that it was not fairly and equitably divided as was intended when the amount was provided for by Act of Parliament. The evil of which he complained had become very serious, and was felt as such in his section of country (Hastings county) as in any other part of the province.

Mr. G. W. ROSS said that the information sought for by the hon. gentleman was not in the Education Department. The only way in which he could get the details required in regard to the school sections would be by sending a circular to each of the school inspectors asking them to supply the information, and then to compile the returns in the Education Office. He would not be able to supply the returns in any case for two or three weeks.

The motion was then carried.

THE ALGOMA ELECTIONS.

Mr. CREIGHTON resumed the adjourned debate on Mr. Meredith's motion in reference to the Algoma elections. He pointed out that no poll had been established on the line of the C. P. R., between Rat Portage and Murillo, a distance of over 200 miles, and between which there are over 20 stations marked on the time-table of the railway. He also referred to the fact that in two instances the polling places named were simply townships, namely Robinson and Burpee. No information was given to enable the Conservative voters to learn where to cast their votes in these townships, while it may be safely presumed that good Grits had no difficulty in this respect. The hon. gentleman made a vigorous protest against what he termed the deliberate attempt of the Government to disfranchise voters. He made short work of the absurd excuse given by the Attorney-General for the non-holding of a poll on Cockburn island. Mr. Mowat said none was held because none had been held there before. Mr. Creighton properly characterized this as silly. The lands on the island were only thrown into the market in 1879, and as early as 1881 the population was considered large enough for the formation of a municipality, which was done. At the time of the election there were 67 voters there.

Mr. AWREY said there was no great trouble for any elector of Cockburn island to poll his vote. He had been told by a theological student that there were 39 voters there, all of whom voted with the exception of seven in the township of Robinson. He charged the Conservatives with having brought over two hundred American fishermen and others, some coming even from Detroit, to vote for the Conservative candidate. He also stated that attempts had been made to bribe the returning officers, and that officials of the Dominion Government had interfered to prevent Reformers from recording their votes.

Mr. MEREDITH said the hon. member had stated there were only 39 voters on Cockburn island. If he proved from public records that that statement was not correct then he thought he would be entitled to ask the country to believe that they were untrue statements. He had the report of the Upper Canada Bible Society. It was an impartial authority. (Hear, hear.) Not a theological student—(laughter)—whose name the hon. gentleman opposite was ashamed to give. It would be borne in mind that in Algoma everyone was entitled to vote who was a householder or possessed property amounting in value to $100. This report said, it was the report of Mr. Taylor, a colporteur, who travelled in connection with the society.

"This month I visited Cockburn island, where I found about sixty families—(loud cheers)—without any church or missionary to show them the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

If the hon. gentleman would turn to the census of 1881 he would find that in Algoma, on Dawson and Cockburn islands, there were no less than 52 inhabited houses.

Mr. FRASER—Fishermen.

Mr. MEREDITH—Not at all. There were 17 shanties, 52 inhabited houses, 5 uninhabited, and 13 in course of erection, total occupied houses 69. (Loud cheers.) In 1881 the population on Dawson and Cockburn islands was 298. There were 60 occupiers, but hon. gentlemen opposite said they were fishermen. This fact was beyond controversy, that in Cockburn island, where 65 votes were polled in 1882, hon. gentlemen opposite chose to leave that island wholly unrepresented and without polling places, indicating a deliberate attempt to disfranchise the electors of the constituency. The matter would, however, be investigated in the courts, and then they would see who was right or wrong in the matter.

Mr. LAUDER moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

TORONTO, Feb. 11.

SOUTH OXFORD REPRESENTATION.

Mr. MOWAT moved that the petition of Wm. Feurter and others, of South Oxford, be read.

Mr. MEREDITH asked that it should stand until to-morrow, as the notice of motion had been given for to-morrow. There would be a discussion.

The motion was allowed to stand.

FIRST READINGS.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

To incorporate the Sarnia and Lambton Southern Railway Company—Mr. McCraney.

To amend the Synod and Rectory Lands Sales Act—Mr. Morris.

To empower the municipality of the village of Parkdale to make special assessment, and for other purposes—Mr. Gray.

For the relief of Alexander Dixon and others—Mr. Morris.

To legalize certain agreements entered into between the municipality of the village of Parkdale and the Grand Trunk railway and other railways, and for other purposes—Mr. Gray.

To empower the municipality of the village of Brockton to make certain assessments and for other purposes—Mr. Gray.

To incorporate the town of Port Arthur—Mr. Lyon.

To authorize the trustees of the estate of the late James Scott to mortgage certain property—Mr. Ermatinger.

To consolidate the debt of the town of Palmerston—Mr. McKim.

To authorize the municipality of the town of Collingwood to issue certain debentures—Mr. McKay.

To legalize the union of certain Methodist Churches—Mr. Lauder.

To enable the town of Barrie to close a portion of Mark street in that town—Mr. Awrey.

To incorporate the township of Dawn Tramway Co.—Mr. McCraney.

To amend the Controverted Elections Act of Ontario—Mr. Meredith.

Respecting the Synod of the Diocese of Huron—Mr. Meredith.

To incorporate the Brockville and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company—Mr. Fraser.

To enable the Roman Catholic Episcopal corporation of the diocese of Toronto to sell certain lands—Mr. Fraser.

To further amend the act incorporating the Roman Catholic bishops of Toronto and Kingston.—Mr. Fraser.

PRINTING MINISTERS' ANSWERS.

Mr. CREIGHTON moved "That it be a standing order of this House that questions asked of Ministers after due notice, and the answers thereto, be in writing, and entered upon the journals of this House." He thought it would be very convenient when questions were asked of Ministers that the answers should be printed on the journals of the House. He thought that questions were never asked except on public matters. There was no record of the answers given. There was sometimes a difficulty in recollecting them, and the newspaper reports were sometimes not quite correct. This course had been taken in Quebec. He thought it might save many motions for papers which took the time of sessional clerks in making up. If hon. gentlemen thought the information they were seeking could be got by a question often they would not make a motion.

Mr. MOWAT said he did not recollect a single case in which there was any material error in the newspaper accounts of the answers of Ministers to questions. He argued against the motion because many of the questions asked for were not of general interest, and only had reference to one constituency.

The motion was lost on a division.

THE ALGOMA DEBATE.

On the order for resuming the adjourned debate on Mr. Meredith's motion re the Algoma elections, Mr. Lauder moved the adjournment of the debate until the papers already called for were brought down. Carried.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. HARDY laid on the table of the House the report of the Minister of Education for 1883.

Mr. CREIGHTON asked when the House might expect the return ordered on the 19th Jan., 1882, with reference to colonization roads. The department had certainly had plenty of time to prepare it, and he hoped the return would be brought down soon. It was a remarkable fact in connection with colonization roads that session after session the House had ordered returns, and the orders had been disobeyed. (Hear, hear.) Returns were ordered in 1879 and also in 1880 which had never been brought down.

Mr. LAUDER said while speaking about returns, he had a grievance of long standing. He had asked for a return relating to some arrears of taxes in municipalities around Port Arthur which had not been brought down.

Mr. CARNEGIE also asked the Government to hurry forward the preparation of the return on the Muskoka Dam, Slide, and Boom Company.

Mr. PARDEE and Mr. HARDY intimated that the returns would be brought down shortly.

House adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

TORONTO, Feb. 12.

PETITIONS.

By Mr. Hudson—Of the Rev. S. Young, of Hastings, against the bill to confirm the union of the Methodist Churches.

By Mr. Graham—Of E. Bristol *et al.*, of Lancaster, to the same effect; of John Davy *et al.*, of Springfield, to the same effect; of J. W. Mallott *et al.*, to the same effect.

By Mr. Balfour—Of the Council of Sandwich, for the establishment of a police force on the Detroit river; also of the County Council of Essex, for amendments to the Drainage Act.

By Mr. Clarke—Of Excelsior Assembly No. 2305, Knights of Labour, against any change in the Mechanics' Lien law *re* priority of claims.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

The following bills were introduced and read the first time:—

To amend the Act to incorporate Knox College.—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton.)

Respecting churchwardens in the diocese of Toronto.—Mr. Clarke.

To incorporate the Niagara Falls Water Works Company.—Mr. Phelps.

To authorize the township of Colchester South to borrow certain monies.—Mr. Balfour.

To authorize the Supreme Court to admit Delos R. Davies to practice as a solicitor.—Mr. Balfour.

To incorporate the Silver Brook Tramway Company—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

To amend the Ontario Drainage Act—Mr. Balfour.

Respecting the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway Company—Mr. Awrey.

To incorporate the Midland Junction Railway Company.—Mr. Lyon.

To amend the charter of incorporation of the Ontario Methodist Camp Ground Company.—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

To reduce the capital stock of the English Loan Company and for other purposes.—Mr. Meredith.

To legalize and confirm certain municipal by-laws granting aid to the Canada Southern Railway Company.—Mr. Harcourt.

MR. CROOKS' CONSTITUENCY.

Mr. MOWAT moved that the petition of Wm. Fewster and others, of South Oxford, be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, said committee to examine the petition and report to the House with all convenient speed. In making the motion, he said that it would be preferable if the case were allowed to go to the committee for a report, after which a discussion could take place in the House. The occasion of the motion, as they were no doubt aware, was a very sad one, viz., the affliction of Mr. Crooks. Mr. Crooks had been a member of the House and the Government for the long period of twelve years, and was regarded with great esteem by both sides of the House. He was sure that he (Mr. Crooks) would be the last man to desire to remain in his present relations with the riding of South Oxford when unable to perform his duties; he had often betrayed an extreme sensitiveness on that point. The course he (Mr. Mowat) proposed had been adopted in England in some cases, notably in 1811, when it was held that the imbecility of a member voided the seat. It was necessary to prove, however, that the disease was an incurable one. He did not know whether it would be suggested that the course taken in England was one which did not affect them here, that the jurisdiction of the English House of Commons was one the Legislature did not possess. Several things might be urged to show that that was the case, the 84th section of the B. N. A. Act being in his opinion conclusive on the point. He did not think they would be justified in leaving South Oxford unrepresented for a week if it were impossible for the member-elect to take his seat.

The motion was adopted.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.

Mr. WATERS asked if the Government intended to publish another edition of the report of the Agricultural Commission.

Mr. A. M. ROSS—No.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER.

Mr. MONK enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce any legislation with regard to the transfer of real estate in this province during the present session.

Mr. MOWAT replied that the matter was under consideration.

SUPERANNUATION OF TEACHERS.

Mr. BRODER enquired whether it is proposed to make any change in the provisions of the law respecting the superannuation of teachers, with a view to placing it on a more satisfactory basis, as promised by the late Minister of Education.

Mr. G. W. ROSS said it was the intention of the Government during the recess to consider the advisability of making a change in the law referred to, with the view, if possible, to have it on a more satisfactory basis.

COLONIZATION ROADS.

Mr. CARNEGIE moved for a return showing:—1. The amount voted by this House for expenditure on each particular colonization road in the province during the year 1883, with the conditions (if any) attached to such grant. 2. The amount actually expended on each of such roads, with the dates when the work thereon was commenced and completed. 3. The roads upon which the $20,000 placed at the disposal of the Government for short new roads has been expended, with copy of report recommending such expenditure or other application therefor; date of appropriation; dates of commencement and completion of the same, and conditions (if any) attached to such grants. In making the motion he explained that he wished to know the dates of the expenditure, because in the country it made a great difference when the money was expended. He also wished to know whether the conditions of the grant had been complied with. He also wanted to know where the $20,000 had been expended, with the date of the appropriation, because he had knowledge of one case where an appropriation had been made by the department at a time when it was calculated to influence votes at the coming election.

The motion was carried.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

Mr. CLARKE (Toronto) moved for an order of the House for a return showing what steps have been taken to secure the erection of new Parliamentary and Departmental buildings in the city of Toronto. A statement showing the total amount expended for repairs of the Parliamentary and Departmental buildings, and for rents and repairs of temporary offices since the 1st day of January, 1880; also, an estimate of the probable cost of erecting new Parliamentary and Departmental buildings. He thought it was folly that valuable papers which could not be replaced if destroyed should be placed in the perilous position in which they are at present. Fifteen or twenty years ago the buildings were considered unsafe, and now they did not know when some part of them would be falling upon their heads. It was a crying shame that the records of this rich province should be placed in such a perilous position, and that the lives of those who administer the affairs of the province should be put in jeopardy in order that an expenditure of a few thousand dollars might be saved.

Mr. FRASER suggested that the hon. gentleman should strike out the first and last parts of the motion, as that information had already been brought down.

The motion as amended was then adopted.

THE STATE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Mr. MOWAT said that the preparation of the Algoma papers in his department was being pushed forward rapidly, and would be ready this week, and he thought he might say the same for the Crown Lands Department. With regard to the Government bills, he hoped to have them all ready this week.

Mr. MEREDITH asked when they might expect the public accounts?

Mr. ROSS (Provincial Treasurer) said that the delay had been caused partly by the changes in the department. They would be brought down as early as possible.

The House adjourned at 5.10 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The almost daily question as to when the Public Accounts will be brought down, brings forth the daily answer, "In a few days." These few days have now actually lengthened out into weeks, and yet this important report has not been produced.

In the division list last week the name of Mr. Morgan (South Norfolk) appeared among the Ministerial supporters. It should have been Mr. Morin, of Welland. Mr. Morgan's name also appeared, in its proper place, among the Opposition.

In our account of the proceedings in the Legislature last week, the name of Mr. Hess (North Perth) was inadvertently omitted from the division list. On his way to Toronto, on the previous Monday, the hon. member received the sad tidings of the death of his brother, and immediately turned back. He arranged, however, that in case of a division before his return to the House, he should be paired with Mr. McKim, which was done, as appears by our contemporary.

Mr. Meredith on Tuesday elicited the information from the Commissioner of Crown Lands that the expenditure of $20,000 voted for colonization roads is made upon the fiat of the Commissioner, and not under any order-in-Council. In view of the well-known fact that this item in the public accounts means a large amount of political influence, which the Government has not been slow to avail itself of, the knowledge that the disposal of the funds is solely in the hands of the Commissioner of Crown Lands is not reassuring.

In moving for returns with reference to schools Mr. Wood brought out the following facts:—1. The rate on the dollar varies in every school section in every township in the province, as shown by the returns of the inspectors. 2. Owing to the imperfect principle governing the distribution of the Government grant, a large proportion is received by sections that are wealthy and require a small rate for ordinary purposes. 3. While some sections in the province were paying, in 1883, one-half of a mill on the dollar, others were compelled to pay as high as four cents. 4. A large majority of the inspectors are in favour of a change