

GRIP.

EDITED BY MR. BARNABY RUDOLF.

The greatest Beast is the Ass; the greatest Bird is the Owl;
The greatest Fish is the Oyster; the greatest Man is the Fool.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1874.

Grip's Essence of Parliament.

THURSDAY.

McMANS corrected a *Leader* report, just as though it had been read by others besides himself.

A number of private bills were publicly passed.

An amendment was made to the Municipal Elections Ballot Bill to allow all returning officers and poll clerks to vote, excepting the clerk, who is clerically disfranchised. Happy mortal! The time for preserving the ballot papers was shortened to one month. A clause was also inserted to make the act apply to voting on by-laws, which was struck out next day.

The Bill to extend the Acts for the better government of the Niagara frontier was read a second time. Does it never strike the House and Ministry that the whole Province might be under better Government.

The item in the estimates for hospitals and charities gave rise to a discussion the like of which may fill hospitals, but certainly can never spring from charity. Some members of the Opposition objecting to sectarian grants, FRASER accused them of riding the Protestant horse, and at once entered the lists on his Papal velocipede. If the word "Catholic" be taken to signify "true," silent SARRI is the most Catholic speaker in the House, but if it mean "universal," then DELOCHE is the true Catholic orator; for he is ready at all times to speak upon "anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

FRIDAY.

FAREWELL introduced a Bill respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors under shop licenses, which does not by any means reach all sold over shop counters.

On motion for the third reading of the Bill to erect the County of Dufferin, BORTON moved the six months' hoist as the last possible piece of opposition he could offer. "All his might" was mighty small; but it may yet prove like the widow's mite, and count to him for much. CAMERON and McGOWAN having spoken on the amendment it was lost on a division, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Municipal Elections Ballot Bill Committee was committed to strike out the clause, inserted the day before, referring to cases of voting on by-laws, after which it was passed.

The Bill respecting the operation of the Ontario Statutes was read a second time. It expresses a belief in the Trinity, and proposes to deal with terms on the sliding scale.

The Bill to amend the Upper Canada Jurors' Act was read a third time. A good many Jurors' acts might be beneficially amended. The same may be said of Pharmacy acts, only that it's often too late to restore the victims of criminal carelessness.

The House refused to add the little Bill of COPE to the municipal code, the objection being against a continual tinkering of the Municipal Act. We are glad to see the House come to our way of thinking. We have not lived in vain.

HODGINS moved the second reading of the bill for the relief of the relatives of intestates when the personal estate is of small value. We suppose when the estate is large the relatives are relieved enough without an Act of Parliament. The mover said the Bill was founded on a similar statute in England, which though a very common, we think is the very worst recommendation in Canada. It is a species of monkeyish imitation that is carried too far—across the Atlantic ocean.

DEACON evidently believes in the injunction, "Take heed to thy ways!" for he moved the second reading of the bill respecting road allowances in Westmeath and Ross townships, promising to make amendments. In the title of the bill we find "blank concession lines; but in reality they're not so blank as would be the face of any one who attempted to travel them.

CAMERON asked when the QUICKLY papers would be ready. PARDEE said quickly.

WEDNESDAY.

LAUDER introduced a Bill to amend the Administration of Justice Act, and prevent the administration from acts of injustice in controlling municipal advertising.

In answer to CAMERON, the Attorney-General said he hoped to get through the business with the week. "The whole business of the session might, not unappropriately, be called "the doings of the week."

DEACON'S road allowance Bill was passed by the House. Whatever

the House passes the Executive "orders up," when, no matter what the value of the stakes may be, the Lieutenant-Governor does no more than give assent.

It was resolved that till the close of the session the House should sit twice each day except Saturday.

MOWAT in moving the second reading of the Redistribution Bill felt that the Government ought to apologize to their political friends. The friends quietly accepted the apology and the prospective advantages.

SCOTT (Grey) naturally thought he should know something of his own county, and stated his views. He trusted the Attorney-General would listen to reason and do justice. Different men reason differently, and have different ideas of justice, some very indifferent.

ANDAGU spoke of and for SIMCOE and declared that outsiders (nobody outside the House, we presume) had influenced the Attorney-General for political ends.

LAUDER was affected over that broken promise. He sees the threatened destruction of Wellington, and frantically prays for "night or Blucher"—anything to prevent Grit gerrymandering.

At the evening session several bills were passed and others advanced a stage, when the Redistribution debate was resumed by LAUDER, none of whose remarks are essential to the completeness of this "Essence."

SCOTT (Peterboro') went into statistics, and drew a picture that looks very like JEANIE MANDER.

BOULTON despairingly entered his protest. He saw no reason for rep. by pop. in the Province.

BETHUNE said "Cornwall."

GIBSON amid the laughter of the House displayed a Chinese puzzle representing Huron redistributed.

SPEZINGER approved the action of the Government, of course.

HARDY honestly congratulated the Government, and acknowledged the manner in which SCOTT of Peterboro' had taken hold of the question and argued it out.

FITZSIMONS protested against the Government Bill.

CODE complained that the bill made him a non-resident of his constituency, and said to the Government, as the Irishman said to the bull that tossed him over the fence: "Begorra, I believe ye did it a purpose!"

CORRIE while approving the general principle of the Bill was opposed to many of its details. He commonly favours generalities.

MERRITT objected to the addition of six members to the House as useless and expensive. He pointed out irregularities in constituencies to show that the Government had not carried into effect the principle unannounced, rep. by pop.

CAMERON argued in a like strain, adding the acknowledged necessity of a strong opposition. To test the sense of the House he moved a three months' hoist.

MOWAT did not propose to remove all the inequalities of representation, but a change in the direction of rep. by pop. He was satisfied from the debate that "the scheme" was as near perfection as possible.

RYKERT thought the House had no power to alter its representation, and that the business could be carried on satisfactorily with 45 or 50 votes. How would it do to reduce the House to that number making RYKERT one of the cast.

CAMERON'S test of sense resulted in a vote of 25 for to 44 against his amendment. We fail to see any sense from the test.

The bill was read a second time.

McKELLAR presented the Crown Lands Report. We wonder if it includes a list of deferred payments to newspapers for advertising the sale of those Mimico lots?

TUESDAY.

A large number of private bills passed.

The bill respecting the operation of the Ontario Statutes got a second reading. Many of these Statutes are totally inoperative.

The House in Committee on the Redistribution Bill passed a number of clauses and allowed others to stand to be again considered. The Opposition members think the majority acts without consideration—for the feelings of the minority.

At the evening session other clauses were agreed to, the committee asking leave to sit again. Strange that committees never ask leave to lie.

The bill respecting the operation of the Statutes passed, and will probably be itself a statute very soon, the operation of which may or may not be respected.

BETHUNE moved the second reading of his Bill to provide for compulsory voting. He merely did so to have a discussion. It has been asserted, and with some show of reason, that a good many motions have been made to create discussion, with a view to obtaining the complete sessional allowance. The mover argued that as only about one man in ten has the franchise, that man should be compelled to exercise it for the sake of the other nine. This is a direct argument for universal suffrage, and also shows that we now have "minority representation," pure and simple. He held that it would do away with bribery in hiring teams to convey voters to the polls, and understood it was practised in Switzerland with good results. However, Canada is not, nor is it like Switzerland.