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NINTH YEAR. THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16, 1888. PRICE ONE CENT.

MR. CAMPBELL DETHRONED

CHANCELLOR BOYD DELIVERS JUDGMENT ON MESSRS. HOWLAND AND GOODERHAM'S PETITION.

Conclusion of the Argument—His Lordship's Exhaustive Review—the Creditors to Meet and Choose His Successor—The Deposed Liquidator Interviewed by The World.

At last the principal act re the Central Bank has been played. Mr. Archibald Campbell has been deposed and his office declared vacant. His colleagues, Messrs. Howland and Gooderham, the petitioning liquidators, are continued in their post and will together proceed with the business of the liquidation until the creditors give them a colleague.

This Chancellor Boyd decided yesterday, and in support of his judgment gave an exhaustive review of the functions of liquidators and the range and operations of the Winding-up Act. He impartially considered the charges and counter-charges of the divers affidavits, and whilst exonerating Mr. Campbell from several of the charges preferred against him, said the duty of the court was to remove him from his office, principally on the ground of want of harmony with his colleagues in the work of liquidation.

No order was made as to costs, and the arrangements for the fresh election were left to Master Hodgins.

This stage of the prolonged proceedings was not reached until 6 o'clock last evening, the Chancellor's summing up occupying more than an hour.

The earlier proceedings lost their interest and importance by His Lordship's decision. They may be concisely summarized by stating that Mr. Macleman, Q.C., took up the argument in reply to the petition against Mr. Campbell, and spoke effectively for 2½ hours.

Mr. Bain, Q.C., followed on the same side and occupied nearly as long. He was in good voice and form, and eloquently denounced the "conspiracy" against his client, the charges preferred having, he maintained, no title of evidence supporting them. Mr. Foster briefly replied to certain points and then came the climax, when at 5 o'clock Chancellor Boyd commenced his judgment.

The Chancellor's Charge.

The Chancellor said:

"I very deeply regret that this application has been made—that there has been a necessity to bring this matter before the court. That there was a necessity is perfectly manifest to any one who looks at the evidence supporting the affidavits of the petitioning liquidators. This is the third day on which these proceedings have been before me, and the materials before the court have assumed a large bulk. However I might if I desirable take a much longer time to consider my judgment, the exigencies of the business of the court are such as to prevent me postponing it or putting my opinion in a more definite form. It is important for all parties that I should decide now. I think I can with sufficient clearness express my views, and considering the way in which the case has been ventilated through the press, and the interest taken in it, my judgment will without delay reach the persons interested in this controversy.

"It is quite clear that the creditors are those who will have to suffer in this matter. After all the contributories have been called upon and the assets realized there will be a very considerable shortage. Whether anything can be realized from doubtful claims or by the owing officers who have been guilty of dereliction of duty, or giving preferential payments, is difficult to say at present. Very much fear is felt that there will be a considerable deficiency.

"This is a most alarming state of affairs. When we considered the history of this bank, the position of the men in connection with it, and the total terrific wreck which has occurred, one is obliged to say that there has been not only gross incompetency—if that word is used in its most comprehensive sense—but dishonesty in the conduct of its affairs. This is a matter which is very important in considering the whole case. I use words advisedly.

"Fortunately in this province we have had very little experience in the winding up of banks. Then have been no well defined rules or practice. Many of the questions have been argued without authorities. Some of the views I may express will be given for the first time in this court.

"Let us consider the position of the court with reference to liquidators. Very considerable difficulties may be found in the winding up of banks where three liquidators are required. This is the express stipulation of the Act in reference to banks. It may be expected that there will be divergencies of opinion, differences of policy between liquidators where more than one liquidator is appointed. In such cases the courts may have to intervene. The difficulties in this case are of a more serious character, and one may say that it is impossible for these three gentlemen to work together. Two of them have stated that they will not work with the third party to the office, to which they have severally been appointed. It is impossible for the court to yoke these three men together. The lack of harmonious action and various disputes would continue to the end of the chapter, and the court would be obliged to intervene to moderate between them and this means considerable expense. It is in the interests of all the parties concerned that there should not be this want of harmony."

The learned Judge then explained the scheme of the Winding-up Act—the meeting of creditors and shareholders, the voting, the confirmation of election by the court, and other procedure. There is to be one liquidator representing the interests of shareholders, one that of the creditors, and a third—a disinterested person—holding the balance of power between the other two. He stated the steps which had been taken in reference to the Central Bank. All parties united in selecting Mr. Campbell and Mr. Gooderham, the only matter in dispute being whether Mr. Stayner or Mr. Howland should be the third liquidator.

Said the Chancellor: "I decided in favor of Mr. Howland because he was neither creditor nor shareholder. Mr. Stayner appeared to have the same interest as Mr. Gooderham, that of a heavy stockholder. He was therefore liable to be called upon to make good his share of the deficiency and was also, I believe, a creditor. Mr. Howland seemed to be a more independent man in this respect.

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"Mr. Campbell's policy, as it seems to me, was plain. 'It is important that this concern should be wound up, the assets realized, the creditors and shareholders and noteholders paid as soon as possible, and all at the smallest expense. It is not for us to search into frauds. It is not for us to play the part of detectives. There are a great many bygone transactions as to which 'Let sleeping dogs lie,' to use a proverbial expression. That was the course of his action and the tenor of his expression as to the proper policy in regard to the bank. I may summarise it by saying that it was a strictly economic policy, and there is a great deal to be said in favor of that view—at least in ordinary and special cases. The more that can be saved for the creditors and the quicker the better for the estate. That was Mr. Campbell's policy. As matters went on divergences occurred and want of confidence sprung up in the minds of his co-liquidators.

"Messrs. Howland and Gooderham seemed, on their part, to have taken this position: There has been very gross dereliction of duty, malfeasances, irregularities, and it is our duty to investigate these things." Speaking personally, I am in sympathy with that view. I think the whole scope of the Act indicates that there are cases in which it would be the bounden duty of the liquidators to investigate suspicious or fraudulent transactions, to see whose the blame rests for such terrible financial trouble, and to put the blame on the right shoulders.

"Then we have to consider what is the policy of this court and this Act in the interests of the country at large. Is money the best thing—that which should be primarily considered in a liquidation? No. It is good in its way; but it is not to be got at the expense of public morality. If the investigation of criminal matters were left to individual creditors or shareholders the old proverb would come in, 'What is every man's duty is no man's duty.' But under this Act liquidators are charged with this duty. They are to engage in this under the supervision of the Master, and it has to be done in reason and moderation. Money is not to be wasted, charges are not to be investigated which will probably result in nothing, mere suspicion is not to be followed up at the expense of the estate. But suppose if $200 or $300 were expended in detecting wrong-doing, putting the blame on the proper persons, such as the half dozen men whose names have been mentioned in this inquiry, is not that in the interests of commerce and the bank? I think it is. The deduction of this small amount from the funds would have an unappreciable result in the end of the liquidation, and would be well spent. This is my opinion; the creditors may not think so. So stating for the court and the best interests of the country, I should say that such cases should be investigated. The Legislature has intended that this should be part of the duty of the liquidators.

"It is important in such extraordinary transactions as these in connection with the Central Bank, where there has been gross dishonesty, that the guilt should be brought home to the guilty parties."

His Lordship then read the sections of the Winding-up Act bearing on the other duties of liquidators and also in reference to trial issues of officers, etc. The sections 115 to 118 he commented on were 20, 52, 81, 83 and 95. In carrying out these provisions liquidators would not be playing the part of detectives, but be, as it were, in the place of public prosecutors. In England there has been a good deal of discussion as to public prosecutors. This Winding-up Act puts liquidators in the position of quasi-public prosecutors. The Legislature has protected commercial morality by this Act.

Mr. Campbell thought this was not the proper way to deal in this particular case. He said, "Let us go to the Attorney-General, and let the cost of the prosecutions fall upon Ontario." That was the line of the economic policy which he advocated. "It strikes me," said the Judge, "that in this case the Attorney-General would have asked the liquidators to investigate and present him with the materials available for such prosecutions."

"In the course of the arguments in this application there has been a very great breadth of accusation and great warmth of advocacy by counsel. They have gone into points which I am happy to say do not fall on me to arbitrate on at all. I do not consider Mr. Campbell on his trial. I do not hint that there is any incapacity on his part for the performance of his duties. On the contrary nothing appears in evidence to show that there is any incompetence on his part to deal with the wind-ing-up in the most efficient way. Nor am I called upon to decide as to the alleged incompetence of Messrs. Howland and Gooderham. Nothing has occurred to show me that they are not as competent now as when first chosen.

"This is the practical position. Here is a board of three liquidators—two against one. It looks as if that the two represent the views of the creditors. If there is to be a readjustment of the board, who is to go out—is it two or the one? I think that in order to face fairly the administration of affairs the one should yield to the two. The liquidators are the hands of the court, and unless there be co-operation and agreement the proceedings will be paralyzed. Such a state of things cannot be tolerated by the court."

The Chancellor reviewed the points of divergence amongst the liquidators and the charges and counter charges. Everything had been argued at great length. Many of the charges had been disproved. Many of them were of little importance. Others had been explained away. Some remained in doubt owing to the conflicting affidavits. Suspicion having been awakened in the minds of Messrs. Howland and Gooderham it was reflected in the conduct of Mr. Campbell, so that they perceived a systematic scheme of opposition in what had previously been a difference of opinion or divergence of policy. They thought that his delay in furnishing such accounts as they desired had arisen because of the possible relations of Mr. Campbell with some of those implicated, that he was not willing to expose fraud or accelerate criminal or other proceedings against them.

"This is my mind," said the learned judge, "gives the key to the whole position. It is not for me to proportion praise or blame as to these matters. It may be that Mr. Campbell is quite right in the way in which he has conducted the concern. But it not right in his mind to furnish the Messrs. Howland with accounts, this can be adjusted by the Master and the charges met by the erring liquidator. A great deal has been said about the way in which this petition was sprung upon Mr. Campbell, and altogether that there had been an improperative action in connection with the Chancellor; "I must exculpate them. I believe they acted in the interest of the creditors as they thought. It may be a matter of opinion as to whether this was the right way to make the application; but the proceedings are to a great extent now at an end, definite rules have been framed. I dissent from the argument of Mr. Bain that this was an unwarrantable proceeding. It may be a question whether a private application would have been better. But, if the latter, all sorts of imputations would have been made and spread abroad."

Passing from the form of the application to the substance of it, the learned judge expressed his opinion that the course should be pursued for the winding-up business from those which had been used previously. A good deal of friction seemed to have arisen over this book of separate accounts of the liquidation proceedings. The 53d section of the act contemplated books of the company as a distinct property in the hands of the liquidator. "I do not believe that there would have been any application here if there had not arisen these divergencies as to the books."

The Chancellor then dealt with the Cox-Baxter papers, stating that he supposed there was good reason why Mr. Allen did not promulgate or distribute them. Mr. Campbell's policy was not to permit a criminal prosecution of Cox, to keep things quiet, to get in the money and say nothing about any crime. Why did he not take his co-liquidators into his confidence? I cannot say that he gives a satisfactory explanation, although he may be justified in acting as he did, afraid of imperilling the chance of getting $14,000 by a criminal prosecution.

The Barnett acceptances were commenced upon by His Lordship at some length. Barnett was apparently an adventurer for whom no one had a good word. Probably the liquidators would further investigate the matter of these acceptances. Perhaps they would discover something; perhaps they would not. I cannot say that I have formed any satisfactory view of the transactions, but it is evident that Baxter, Barnett and Campbell were working together. Campbell's dealing with these acceptances might have been a bona fide transaction; he may not be liable civilly. There was no evidence that Campbell had other than a business relation with Baxter as to these acceptances. The petitioning liquidators were not satisfied with these relations and transactions. Their suspicions made Campbell resent. This was probably the explanation of the private meetings of Mr. Howland and Mr. Gooderham which Mr. Bain called "conspiracy."

"It seems to me," said the Chancellor, "that the duty of the court is perfectly plain. The court has power to call another meeting of the creditors and to submit to them the question as to who the third liquidator shall be. Section 19 of the Winding-up Act provided for this.

"This is a case in which the creditors are the all-important persons. They are the ones who will have to suffer. They are those from whom the expenditure will come in tracing those different criminal acts which have been committed. It is for them to say how far this shall be done. They may condone matters if they like. They may say 'we are quite willing to expend $1000 or $2000 in tracking these defaulters. They may affirm their confidence in Mr. Campbell. They may be satisfied with his explanations and assert that he has done nothing which imputations him in these matters, that he is perfectly free from blame, and that his services and qualifications are such as to render him an invaluable servant.

"So far as Messrs. Howland and Gooderham are concerned the creditors knew all about them. But the creditors did not know what this examination has disclosed as to Mr. Campbell's connection with Baxter and the others whose names are mixed up in these proceedings. It is for the creditors to say whether they will continue confidence in him.

"My judgment is this: So far as I am concerned I do not take the responsibility of continuing Mr. Campbell in his position as liquidator. The proceedings tell against him, and I must have regard to the stand which the other two liquidators have taken against him. It is now for the creditors to say what they will do.

"Therefore I direct that the office of liquidator occupied by Mr. Campbell be vacated, and that a meeting of the creditors be called for the purpose of nominating a person to fill this third liquidatorship, without prejudice to Mr. Campbell being nominated for the office. The time and place of meeting will be settled by the Master.

"I do not dispose of the question of costs at present.

"There need be no suspension in dealing with the accounts by the other liquidators, Messrs. Howland and Gooderham. Their proceedings will go on as at present, in the meanwhile."

Counsel's Last Words.

Mr. Bain: "I ask your Lordship to direct that the liquidators shall not interfere with the meeting to be called in any way, or endeavor to procure proxies to represent creditors at the meeting. Messrs. Howland and Gooderham have the books in their possession and know who the creditors are. The meeting should be perfectly free, and there should be a clear understanding that the liquidators take no part in the meeting.

The Chancellor: "I think it is better to let all speak and deal with the matter as they choose."

Mr. Bain: "I do not object to the liquidators speaking at the meeting, but I do object to their making use of circulars and proxies."

The Chancellor: "The creditors have to send in their claims by Feb. 20, and the list will then be open at the bank. However, I will refer this matter to the master. He will settle the details—the advertisement, the time and place of meeting, etc. I will not fetter him in his discretion in any way."

Mr. Foster: "As to Messrs Howland and Gooderham?"

The Chancellor: "The work of liquidation must go on."

Mr. Foster: "There has been no suspension on their part yet."

The Chancellor: "No; there has not. They will continue their work."

What Mr. Campbell Says.

The World met Mr. Archibald Campbell last night after the Chancellor's decision, and asked him if he had anything to say in reference to the same. Mr. Campbell, while not expressing any opinion as to the justice or otherwise of the judgment, stated that he had not made up his mind as to what course he should pursue. It would require a couple of days for him to think over the matter. He did not really know how long he would remain in the city. He further stated that he had nothing he wished to say to the public through the press at present.

A Dividend to be Declared.

It was reported to the Master-in-Ordinary yesterday by Messrs. Howland and Gooderham, Central Bank liquidators, that the funds in their hands and the amounts which they expect to collect justified them in asking for power to declare a dividend to the Central Bank depositors as soon after March 1 as they can get the record of claims in shape. The Master granted the required permission.

President Blain's Overdraft.

A writ of summons has been issued by the liquidators of the Central Bank, claiming from David Blain, the president of the bank, $11,000, the amount of his overdrawn account. Mr. Blain will be served in the States, and will have twenty-one days to enter his appearance and deliver his defence.

No Dealings With Barnett.

In a letter received yesterday from Mr. E. S. Cox by a personal friend, Mr. Cox says: "I see Barnett has been interviewed and mentions me. Now remember this, I never had any thing of any kind to do with Barnett, directly or indirectly, and he knows nothing about me or my transactions."

ELI PERKINS ON LAUGHTER.

He Philosophizes on the Characteristics of Wit, Humor and Sarcasm.

That on which the sun never sets immortal the office of humorist seems destined to be immortal.

What is the difference between a mother-in-law and a bee? Give a bee honey and he will stay.

I fight the delivery time; I would kill the devil but I hate the heat to when I see a male Gladstone in the house I think of my families to support.

The above are specimen bricks taken from a large pile that Eli Perkins threw at his audience last night in Association Hall. To catch one or two of these bricks on the fly, and present them as above will not give a satisfactory idea of the lecture, but in doing this we opine that we are at least equal to the ancient philosopher who had a house to sell, and who carried about with him a brick of it as a sample to exhibit to intending purchasers. The lecturer gave his audience to understand that he was growing more serious as he was growing older, that he was becoming a philosopher, and instead of being, as formerly, a mere mechanic to make people laugh, he was striving to give them the inside track of the philosophy of laughter, to explain to them the art of laughing. In this connection he explained the peculiar characteristics attaching to wit, humor, pathos, sarcasm and ridicule, and it was in elaborating and defining these forms that he threw out his pile of accumulated funniness. The cyclone appears to be a cold and unemployed subject. Perhaps he thought some chestnut about a cyclone they encountered when out west. Mr. Perkins said he was in Kansas at a time when a cyclone was expected to occur. A stranger, who did not know how to weather one of these atmospheric disturbances, went out of doors, and not knowing that the proper caper was to keep his mouth shut under the circumstances, began to whistle at a time. The result was that the tide got in and washed the cyclone out of his teeth, and before he knew it he was turned inside out and thrown up against a stone wall, flattened out like an omelette. The same fate happened to several other strangers who were in town. An enterprising individual set to work and took the cyclone in a pumpkin-seed vest-pocket and did a big business for a few weeks in selling them off as liver pads. The lecturer, as he went along, pointed a moral here and there, and when the close he delivered as fine a temperance panegyric as the greatest temperance enthusiast could wish to hear. He pictured Kansas as it is—no prohibitionists, saloons, no police, everybody full of joy and happiness. The wife-beater has ceased to exist and the husband and wife sit down of an evening his grain fills not up with beer and black bologna, but sensible man, he eats a square meal at one of the many temperance hotels that bloom and flourish there. The speaker could hardly find words to picture the happiness and content that reigned among the people of Kansas since prohibition was enacted. It was a place where men from other States were journeying to place themselves beyond the possibility of temptation. Lately, said Mr. Perkins, he met an Indiana farmer fleeing to Kansas with his three sons so that they might be spared the fate of their mother, who had been killed in a drunken brawl in a town of Indiana. He did not wish to see any Ontarian move to Kansas on account of the prohibition, but he would like to see them saved from ruin here in Ontario by adopting prohibition. Mr. Perkins was greeted with rapturous applause throughout his discourse, and at the end everyone seemed pleased with the evening's entertainment.

Other Phases of the Amusement World.

There were fairly good houses at both performances of "Hoodman Blind" yesterday. The melodrama is a favorite with the Toronto public.

The sale of seats for the comic opera "Dorothy," next week at the Grand, opens this morning at the box office. The music of "Dorothy" is popular in New York papers, melodious, tuneful and easily acquired by the audience. It will be placed upon the stage in the Grand in a magnificent manner, the scenery being very handsome.

The "New Dominion" drew two good houses at the Toronto yesterday. The play, which ranks with the best of its class, continues to attract the lovers of sensational drama.

Joe Dowling will hold the boards at the Toronto Opera House next week in the melodrama "Never Say Die." The play is well constructed and the scenery is very nicely effected with great applause. The river of real water is the most strikingly realistic thing ever seen on the stage. The American papers speak very highly of the play.

The subscription list of the Norman concert was large yesterday, both at Nordheimer's and Suckling's. It will be kept open all this week.

A select concert under the auspices of the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union will be given in Association Hall tonight. Besides several well-known local favorites there will be Miss Lotty of New York, a pupil of Madame Brink-Pohl.

Death of an American Satirist.

TOLEDO, O., Feb. 15.—D. R. Locke ("Petroleum V. Nasby") died at his residence in this city of consumption and a complication of organic troubles this morning.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

Detective Burrows will leave for London this morning to bring back Samuel Singer, who is charged with the larceny of a pair of boots from Geo. Fraser of Northcote avenue, and who was arrested in London yesterday.

The police of the third precinct yesterday afternoon arrested a lad named Pat Dillon on the charge of the larceny of a pair of pictures from Broderick Bros., 524 Queen-street west.

John Johnson and Thomas McLaren will be tried at the Police Court this morning for the larceny of some coal from unknown parties. They were arrested by the police of No. 1 Division while carting the coal away.

Collingwood Schreiber, Marcus Smith and P. H. McLeod, of the Department of Railways and Canals, are in the city in connection with the subway question, it is understood.

Mr. J. W. Crutch of British Columbia, an important witness for the Government in the Onderdonk case, passed through the city last night to Ottawa.

Lewis of 23 Oxford-street last night reported the loss of a black overcoat stolen from the Elliott House, at Shuter and Church streets.

"St. Charles."

A suite of elegant luncheon and dining rooms for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen have just been opened and furnished regardless of expense at the above named restaurant, 70 Yonge-street, first door south of the Dominion Bank. The celebrated lunch counter will be open for the convenience of business men and others will be continued as usual. Fred Mossop, Proprietor. 216

To Dine on March 16.

The two city branches of the Irish National League last night decided to hold their annual banquet on the night of March 16.

Origin of the Bustle.

—A gentleman in Michigan has discovered that the Indian women of Arizona and New Mexico wear bustles, and that it has been worn by these people for numberless generations. They are made principally of bent saplings and are so far behind the modern bustle in utility as the Diamond Stove Co. ranges and stoves are ahead of the fuel and food wasters that some ladies are trying to get along with. Their reputation for good bakers is unprecedented. See them at 8 Queen west. 149

THE HOUSE HARD AT WORK.

A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT BILLS ADVANCED A STAGE.

A Three Hours' Session Results in a Good Showing—Protection of Guests at Hotels—The General Road Companies Act—The Deputations.

Yesterday was a busy one with the Legislature. For about three hours the House devoted itself assiduously to the business which had accumulated on the order paper. The feature of the sitting was the advancement of several important bills a stage. Although the House did not hold an evening session it may be fairly claimed that they did a good day's work. All the members except three or four were in their places. The adjournment was at 5.50.

Mr. Meredith asked whether any journal or other record of the proceedings of the conference of certain members of the executive councils of this and certain other of the provinces held in Quebec in October last was kept. If any such journal or other record was kept, it is the intention to lay a copy of it before the House.

The Attorney-General said—I believe that a journal or other record of the proceedings of the conference was kept. A copy of it has been sent to every member of the House.

Mr. French asked whether, in view of the recent considerable increase of jurisdiction of the division courts and the narrowing down thereby of the jurisdiction of the county courts, it is the intention of the Government, during this session, to abolish the present jurisdiction of county courts and transfer such jurisdiction to the division courts, or, on the other hand, to largely increase the present jurisdiction of the county courts.

The Attorney-General—It is not the intention of the Government at the present session to introduce any measure with reference to the question asked by the hon. member for Grenville.

Mr. Blyth moved for an address to the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a return of copies of all orders in council with respect to the formation of new municipalities under the provisions of the Municipal Act. He contended that though, according to law, the municipal councils were permitted to invest money they had on hand in chartered banks, trust companies, first mortgages on real estate, municipal debentures, Dominion and Ontario securities, the modes of investment were not what was desired. Investment in trust companies was improper, and he knew of a case in which the treasurer of one of which had lost $24,000 and the other $14,000 by depositing in the Central Bank. What they wanted was a government act, such as that in force where the municipalities could deposit. The Government was borrowing from other sources and it might just as well borrow from the municipalities, and at the same time confer a boon on them by keeping their money till it was required. Hon. A. S. Hardy intimated that the Government would not establish such an institution. There were sufficient means afforded to municipalities, when care and discretion were used, for safe and remunerative investment of funds. He had no objection to the motion passing.

For the next two hours the House buckled to the business of the day through the list of public and private bills. Eight were taken up and discussed, and seven of these were given a second reading.

Mr. French's bill to amend the law respecting mortgages was the first on the list. It provided that it would not be lawful for a mortgagee to demand six months' notice from the borrower of the lender's intention to repay, or six months' interest in lieu thereof, unless it was so expressly stated in the terms made by the conveying parties. The Attorney-General, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Bigelow, Mr. Clarke and Mr. French discussed the merits of the measure. Mr. Gibson suggested that a three months notice would be sufficient in most cases where the mortgage was overdue and the borrower had been permitted to pay his interest without being put to the expense of giving notice. It would not be fair to the lender to have the payment made without any notice. Mr. French proposed to meet the views of the members who composed the Legal Committee.

Mr. Meredith—No, no; put some farmers on it.

Mr. French—I have no objection to other names being added.

Mr. Meredith—Put on all the candidates for the office of Minister of Agriculture. [Laughter.]

The bill was referred to a committee composed of Messrs. Meredith, Bishop, Fraser, Ross (Huron), Waters, Drury, Tooley, Wood (Hastings), Gibson (Hamilton), Clancey, Whitney, Guthrie, Richardson and French.

Mr. Lees' bill to amend the General Road Companies Act, was next taken up. It gave power to municipal councils to subscribe for one hundred ratepayers, to have arbitrators appointed to decide upon what benefit the application of tolls upon road companies would accrue to towns or villages, should he. It gave the arbitrators power to assess interested municipalities their fair share towards the purchase of such roads. On the application of the purchase all tolls were to be abolished. The Attorney-General said this was an important measure. It was proper that the toll-free roads used by the public should be abolished. However it would be well to allow the road companies an opportunity of objecting to such abolition if they might have to offer. The bill was given a second reading, and referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. McKay's bill "for the prevention of accidents by fire in hotels and public buildings" provides that hotel proprietors shall build iron ladders on the outside of their hotels or other building above the first story; that a rope fire escape shall be kept in each bedroom above the ground floor, and that any hotel man failing not complying with the law shall be subject to a fine of not less than $20 or more than $200. The bill was read a second time and referred to the committee composed of Messrs. Hardy, Meredith, H. E. Clarke, Wood (Brant), Gibson (Hamilton), Guthrie, Craig, Ingram, Fraser and Wright, of Ottawa.

Mr. Waters' bill to amend the Assessment Act so as to have the "poll tax" paid to overseers of roads instead of to the municipal councils received a second reading and was referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Stewart's bill to amend the Municipal Act so as to regulate the distance from any public road that any portable steam engine may be used received a second reading without debate.

Mr. Wood's (Brant) proposed amendment to the municipal act met with the approbation of the Provincial Treasurer. It will compel every municipal council to have a complete statement of the assets and liabilities of such municipality published before nomination day of each year. The bill received its second reading.

Mr. Phelps wanted Scott Act magistrates in counties having a population from 40,000 to 60,000 paid $700 a year, and counties having more population than that, $800 a year. But the Attorney-General squelched him and that ended the matter. Mr. Phelps argued that in Simcoe the county had made $19,000 out of the act and it should pay the magistrate a bigger salary. But added he: "If the Attorney-general opposes the bill I do not wish to press it." [Laughter on the Opposition side.]

Hon. A. M. Ross comforted Mr. Phelps by saying that the latter had served a good purpose in bringing out this fact. No doubt if Mr. Phelps went to the County Council of Simcoe and, with his usual eloquence, pointed out the injustice done the Scott Act Magistrate, the Council would attend to the matter.

Mr. Meredith held that the passage of such a bill would do injury to the temperance cause, as the counties, compelled against their will to vote money, would very likely endeavor to frustrate the objects of the act.

Mr. Phelps withdrew his bill.

Mr. Smith's bill introducing a kind of front-age tax, called by him an "acreage rate," into rural communities, for providing funds to defray the cost of local improvements, was opposed by Messrs. Wood and Phelps. The latter thought Mr. Smith should be compelled to withdraw it. The bill got its second reading and was referred to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Clarke (Wellington) succeeded in getting his bill to make the heads of municipal councils, reeves and deputy-reeves, ex-officio justices of the peace, read a second time. This year no opposition was raised to it.

A private bill, introduced by Mr. Stratton, amending the act incorporating the William Hall Peterboro Protestant Poor Trust was read a second time.

Bills Read a First Time.

These bills were introduced and read a first time:

Mr. Bronson—An act to amend the Railway Act of Ontario.

Mr. Leys—An act respecting the Town of Parkdale.

Hon. G. W. Ross—An act respecting the endowment of University College and Upper Canada College.

Mr. Musk—An act to amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Conmee—An act respecting the Town of Port Arthur and townships adjacent to the town.

TALK OF THE LOBBIES.

Another Day of Deputations—Those That Saw the Attorney-General Yesterday.

Dr. Coventry, Windsor; Dr. Stoneham, Ottawa; Dr. Burgess, Lindsay; Dr. Griffin, Brantford; Dr. Robillard, Ottawa; Dr. McClelland, Trenton, and Dr. Oldright, Toronto, representing the Executive Health Officers' Association of Ontario, waited on the Attorney General and Hon. A. M. Ross yesterday, asking that Dr. Bryce, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, be made a health officer in connection with their association, and that proper instruments be supplied to him to enable him to carry on scientific investigation principally in the direction of analysing food and water. The deputation were assured that the matter would be considered.

The Royal Templars of Temperance object to the proposed Friendly Societies Act. After the doctors withdrew the Attorney-General and Mr. Ross were seen by a strong deputation from the order, now sitting in Toronto, who urged similar objections to those raised by the Independent Order of Foresters a few days ago.

A deputation composed of Mayor J. B. Thompson (Orillia), J. McCosh, Dr. Slaven, F. J. Delaney, W. J. Gilpin, James Quinn, J. J. Gallagher, Dr. Elliott, J. J. Hadley, Peter Thompson, Rev. Mr. Armstrong and William Teskey, waited on the Attorney-General to persuade the Government to take portions of territory off the counties of Ontario and Simcoe and the district of Muskoka for the purpose of forming a new county, with Orillia as the county town. They proposed to give the new county the poetic name of "Mowat." If the new county be formed the Orillia men think their town has the strongest claims on being made the capital.

The biggest deputation of the session entered the Attorney-General's presence at 6.30 o'clock last evening. There were about fifty altogether, from different parts of Parry Sound and Muskoka districts. They came to protest against the proposal to form a county or counties, for municipal purposes, out of these districts. They wanted districts for judicial purposes only. There were two plans of division proposed. A. R. Town, Hugh Hunter, James Sharpe, H. H. Monzies, E. O. Taylor, Wm. A. Kelsey of The Burk's Falls Arrow, Henry Mitts, Wm. Brisbin, Geo. Morrison and others from the vicinity of Burk's Falls, wanted Parry Sound divided into two districts, east and west. The dividing line would be west by the Township of McMurrich, Ryerson, Chapman, Pringle and Patterson. The western district would have twenty-seven townships and the eastern twenty-three. Charles Kinton, H. P. May, J. W. Ferguson, Dr. Bigelow, Dr. Ferguson, Wm. Forster, Dr. Howland, John Paget and a large following wanted the district divided north and south by the "Seven Lakes," which would run north from Bracebridge, and make provisional counties of each division, with the provision that county shall be made if Bedford county, when the township demand it. Parry Sound would be, according to their plan, the capital of Parry Sound, and Huntsville, of Muskoka.

Hon. A. S. Hardy went to Brantford yesterday to attend the funeral of the late John H. Stratford.

EXTENSIVE FIRES.

Foundry and Cooper Shop Destroyed at Chatham—The Millbrook Disaster.

CHATHAM, Feb. 15.—Fire early this morning destroyed the cooper shop of Andrew Irwin and the machine shops and foundry of McKeough & Trotter. Irwin's loss is $1200 on building and $1000 on stock, partly covered by insurance. The loss of Trotter is $20,000, insured in Waterloo Mutual for $1000, Glasgow and London $1000, British America $1000. A Michigan paper says the fire was started on the truck close to the foundry, is a total loss.

Millbrook's Losses.

MILLBROOK, Feb. 15.—The principal losses by last night's fire, which was caused by the bursting of a lamp, are: Lang, grocerie, $1500, insured $500; Armstrong, dry goods, $1500, insured $1000; Cameron, boots and shoes, $1000, insured; Moffatt, boots and shoes, $200, no insurance; Counsil, tailor, $4000, insured $2000; Mulligan block $4000, insured $2000.

Quebec's Little Blaze.

QUEBEC, Feb. 15.—The fire which originated in the gas works to-day was got under control at 8 o'clock, after $200 damage being done; covered by insurance.

A Big Fire at Elmira.

ELMIRA, N.Y., Feb. 15.—The entire building of The Elmira Advertiser was burned to-night. Nothing was saved but a few files. The bindery, composing room and editorial employes all lost everything. The Sunday Tidings office, next door south of The Advertiser, was also destroyed. The Advertiser's loss is from $80,000 to $90,000; insurance $60,000; the Tidings, lately, $2,000, insured; Sunday Tidings loss $7000, insurance $2500; J. M. Robinson & Sons loss $30,000, insurance $24,000; Republican publishing house, loss $23,0, no insurance; loss on the two buildings destroyed besides The Advertiser and Tidings, Robinson's building $6000, insurance $5500; Arnot estate loss on Robinson building $25,0,0, insured $20,000.

ONTARIO GRAND LODGE, A.O.U.W.

Tenth Annual Session in Progress at Hamilton—Grand Recorder's Report.

HAMILTON, Feb. 15.—The tenth annual session of the Grand Lodge, A.O.U.W., opened here this morning, and at roll call 335 representatives responded to their names. Grand Master H. B. Taylor of Whitby stated that on Dec. 31, 1887, there were in Ontario 289 lodges, with a membership of 14,003. During the year 88 deaths occurred, and $78,000 had been paid to the widows and orphans of the deceased brothers.

Grand Recorder M. D. Calder's report showed total cash received during the year $193,955, an increase of $20,545 over last year. There have been 17 lodges organized during the year, with an average membership of 17.

Last night the Westworth graduates and undergraduates of Toronto University held their fifth annual dinner, about thirty-five being present.

Albert Logan of Toronto, agent, was charged before Police Magistrate Ingram, yesterday, with larceny of a watch from J. W. Bigger. Logan claimed that he won the watch from Bigger on a bet, and was allowed to go, the watch being returned to Bigger.

An Alleged Connection of the C.P.R.

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 15.—In the State Senate to-day Mr. Erwin's bill giving the Schenectady and Ogdensburg Railway Company the right to