

lions of acres of the most beautiful land the eye ever rested upon. But there certainly was no such land in the district he had referred to. He hoped, however, measures would be taken to preserve its timber. He believed more timber was destroyed where it grew, by fire and by waste, than was taken out of the country.

Mr. COCKBURN, in reply to the member for Ottawa, said that honourable gentlemen might be right as to the pine land in the Ottawa district. But he knew that the immense quantities of pine timber brought down to Toronto by the Northern Railway, and which was superior to the Ottawa timber, came from a district which was a good wheat country. In reply to the member for Lincoln, he would say that the lumbermen might cut the timber the first winter it had been located to a settler, but after the 31st May they could not. Such at least was the regulation of the Department; but in the cases to which the member for Lincoln referred, the settlers might have been imposed upon.

Sir HENRY SMITH thought the member for Lincoln was quite justified in making this motion. If the house was to debate intelligently the measures of the Government, promised in the Speech from the Throne, with reference to the settlement of wild lands, and homestead exemption, nothing could be more necessary than that they should be informed of the condition of the country, into which it was proposed to send the settlers. He was afraid that his honourable friends on the Treasury Benches, when they put these two popular questions into the mouth of his Excellency, did not fully consider the difficulty they would get into. He had understood the Premier to say that it was the intention of the Government to give free grants of land. So indeed it was stated in his Excellency's speech. But he had yet to learn that a free grant of land, was to be a grant of land, keeping the timber back from the settler. A free grant should entitle the holder to all the timber on it. He had seen the melancholy consequences which had resulted, when settlers found that their lands were on timber limits previously granted, and when they saw, while they were engaged in building their houses, other parties step in, slash down their pine and take it away. It was this kind of treatment which had driven the settlers away from the colonization roads. He agreed that it was the duty of the Government to determine what lands were fit for settlement, and what should be reserved for lumbering purposes. The Government also should see to it that they made such conditions with the lumbermen that the timber should not be wasted. The Attorney-General had stated in the debate on the address that it was intended to give the free grant settlers the right of Homestead exemption. The country expected a great

deal more than that. As an hon. member opposite had remarked, homestead exemption was a boom to be granted to every poor and honest man in the cities and towns, as well as the country. And, if the Government said they were to make an exemption in favour of the man who went on crown lands, which he got for nothing, while they would not for the man who paid for his land, the anticipations of the country would be disappointed. (Hear, hear). If we were to have a homestead exemption law, let it be one in fact and not in name. As regarded the difficulty of furnishing correct information about the quantity of public lands we had fit for settlement, it might take a little time to get that information, and it would perhaps be better that the House should not legislate on the subject, until we understood fully what amount of good land we had at our disposal. He had been sorry to hear the member for West Hastings give so melancholy a statement as to the Hastings road. He could only say that the Government in past days must have been greatly deceived when they put settlers in that district. In Frontenac, however, he was happy to say that, through the whole course of the Colonization Road, he had never known a single settler desert his location. The reason was, that in making that road, they never intended to put a man on a lot that would not support him. Another point of importance was, that, when Government decided on their policy as to timber licenses, they should make provision for the settlement of good lands within the timber limits.

An Hon. MEMBER—That is done now.

Sir HENRY SMITH—It was not done now. He knew hundreds of cases in which, when a settler went upon a lot, he was told—"You cannot go there; that is in timber limits." What he wanted was, that, when a man found a good lot, he might

go upon it, whether it was in timber limits or not, and acquire the right of pre-emption. He thought the sooner the Government brought down their policy the better. It was a pity the House had not their Bill before it now. The subjects mentioned in the address were well received by both sides of the House, and the address was voted unanimously, and he must bring a charge against the Government that they had not transmitted that address to His Excellency. They must have kept it locked up in one of their desks, for, if His Excellency had received the address, he must surely have acknowledged it before now.

Mr. SMITH, (North Leeds) thought it would involve a good deal of delay and expense to get all the information asked for in this motion. It was for the Government to bring down their scheme, and, if they did not at the same time furnish enough information to enable the House to deal intelligently with it, it would then be for the House to take the matter into its own hands. He hoped the interests of settlers would be protected, as against the lumbermen. In many cases the lumbermen got parties, called bush-rangers, to go and make affidavit, that such and such a lot was not fit for settlement, and the settler had to retire. The system which had prevailed led to favouritism, and often to downright perjury.

Mr. McDALL (South Norfolk) said that in his Riding there was a considerable amount of white pine land, which at one period was not thought fit for cultivation. It had been sold for as low as a dollar per acre, and he had known persons in recent years sell the timber standing on it for \$90 and \$100 an acre; and now, when these lands were converted into farms, it was found that the finest white wheat produced in the Province was grown on them. His experience, therefore, was that the white pine lands were fit for agricultural purposes. As regarded the mode of disposing of our public lands, he would make a free grant to the actual settler of half of the lot he was to occupy, after occupying it continuously for five years and making certain improvements, he should receive a free patent, and that patent should be a homestead—and the other half of the lot he should be allowed to purchase within five years, at \$1.25 per acre. He would also let the settler choose for himself his own lot.

Mr. BLAKE said this discussion would have come on more properly when the Government measure was before the house, and was only justifiable because they had nothing else to do. He thought the Government should have had their measure before the house ere this. They had stated that they did not want the adjournment, and were ready to proceed to business; but that the delay which usually occurred at the opening of a session would be obviated by the opportunity the adjournment would give them to have their measures printed. He had hoped that this promise would have been fulfilled, and that the house would have been ready to proceed to business before now.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said the measures of which he had given notice on Monday, before the adjournment, were printed, and others would soon be. The Commissioner of Crown Lands would give notice to-morrow of his resolutions with reference to free grants, and a homestead law, and as much information as it was possible for the Government to give, bearing on these important questions, would be brought down.

The motion was then agreed to.

MUNICIPAL AND ASSESSMENT LAWS.

Mr. RYKERT said he would now renew the motion he made yesterday for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the various amendments proposed to be made in the Assessment and Municipal Laws of this Province during the present session. He had increased the number of the Committee, although he still thought that a Committee of 9 or 11 would do far more service than a Committee of 19 or 21. He repudiated the idea that, in the list as at first proposed, he had endeavoured to make it in the interest of any party. He did not think this was a matter into which party considerations should intrude. When the time came for him to take his position in his party, the house and the country would hear from him. He concluded by moving the appointment of the committee, to consist of Messrs. Carling, Wood, Cameron, McKellar, Graham, (York) Currie, Fitzsimmons, Gibbons, Pardee, Graham, (Hastings) Wigle, McCall, (Norfolk) Coyne, Greeley, McLeod, Barber, Galbraith, Ferrier, and the mover.

MR. MCKELLAR said, as he understood it, the object of the committee was not merely to consider such Bills as might be