

north-western boundaries of the Province of Ontario, and if not, when it proposed doing so.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD replied that hon. gentlemen were perhaps aware that very important legislation was taking place in the Dominion Parliament respecting this question. There had been communications on the subject with the Home Government, and, so far as the country knew, no final decision had yet been arrived at. The Government had it in contemplation, as soon as it could well do so, to urge that a definite decision be arrived with respect to the boundaries of the Province.

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS.

Mr. BLAKE inquired whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session any measure on the subject of the Election Law, the Independence of Parliament, or the Municipal Law.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that measures on these subjects had been introduced by the member for Frontenac and others, and it was the intention of the Government to watch the proceedings of the house closely in regard to these measures. He would state once for all that the Government had had under consideration one or two of the measures which had been brought in by the member for Frontenac—but as he had introduced them they did not wish to take out of his hands measures which he was fully competent to submit to the house.

CROWN LANDS AGENCIES.

Mr. LAUDER inquired of the Government whether or not it is their intention to continue the present system of Crown Lands Agencies in the counties of Huron, Grey and Bruce.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS replied that the agencies would probably be continued until after the present session closed. Then the Government would probably reorganize the whole system of the Crown Lands Department and decide upon the officers to be continued and those to be dispensed with.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY.

Mr. LAUDER inquired whether any, and what steps have been taken to secure to the Province of Ontario any portion of the books constituting the Parliamentary library of the late Province of Canada, and also, what is the intention of the Government with respect to that portion of said library which properly belongs to the Province of Ontario.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD, in reply, stated that the Legislature of Ontario had no right to the books of that library; no portion of it belonged to the Province; the very building in which the Legislature sat did not belong to them. The subject of the library would, no doubt, be determined by the Parliament of the Dominion before long; but until other questions were disposed of, no definite answer to inquiries on the subject could be expected from the Dominion Parliament. Ontario was no doubt entitled to, and would receive compensation for her share in the library; but the books would not be given up—any compensation received would be in money.

Mr. LAUDER remarked that the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had not contributed any portion of their local libraries, and had not the same right possessed by the people of Upper Canada to a share of the books and records. The question was whether the Government of Ontario had taken the proper steps to secure for the Province its proper share of the library. Money would be no equivalent for their full share.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD stated that it was the intention of the Government to claim compensation for what the people of Ontario had contributed towards the library. The Province had no legal claim on the library, but they certainly had a right to compensation.

Mr. FERGUSON suggested that where there were duplicate volumes in the library, one copy might be given to Ontario.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa)—The books have been already burned up twice. (Laughter).

TIMBER LICENSES.

Mr. McLEOD moved an Address to His Excellency, for a return showing the number of timber licenses granted since the 1st of July, 1867, for cutting timber on the lands of the Province; to whom granted; the Territory covered by same, and the amount received or to be received in each case, together with the names of all applicants for such licenses; the territory applied for, and not yet granted, during the same period.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said that what was now asked for would be found in the return to the Address, voted yesterday on the motion of the hon. member for Lincoln.

Mr. McLEOD said that the Address referred to by the Commissioner of Crown Lands covered a period of six or seven years, and it might be some time before the return, covering such extensive ground, would be brought down. The object of his motion, which only went back to 1st July last, was to ascertain how far the Government had carried out that change of policy, which they had intimated, with reference to the granting of timber licenses. He had heard with much satisfaction, the sentiments expressed by so many hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house, condemning the policy which had prevailed in the Crown Lands Department for a number of years back. When he remembered that several of these gentlemen had by their votes assisted in upholding that system, the country had reason to congratulate itself on the change of sentiment. He desired to see whether the present occupants of the Treasury Benches were carrying out the same policy as had heretofore prevailed. If rumour was to be believed, there were now men occupying prominent positions in this Province, who were applicants for these timber licenses. The house, he thought, should be put in possession of the facts. He thought it would be for the advantage of the country to dismiss the whole of the present Crown timber agents, who with some honourable exceptions—were no credit to the department, and to appoint men of higher moral standing, who would faithfully discharge their duty to their country.

Mr. BOYD said he knew parties who had made application to Crown timber agents for licenses to cut timber during this winter and who had been refused, while at the same time gentlemen who held licenses from the Government, were sub-letting these to the poor, hard working labourer, who went into the woods with his axe on his shoulder to gain a winter's living. Such facts would be viewed by the country in the light of gross favoritism, unless information were given of a nature to explain them satisfactorily.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said the Government had not granted one fresh license since they came into office.

Mr. BOYD—That is all we wanted to know.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said the motion carried yesterday would have brought out this information, and indeed he had stated on a former occasion that it was not the intention of the Government to grant more timber licenses until they knew more precisely the extent of what they were dealing with; but it appeared that there had still been a lurking suspicion that something else was kept behind, and it had been considered necessary to put the question directly, what licenses had been granted. The Government, the moment they took office, stopped granting licenses; they had renewed, however, the former licenses, on the same terms as formerly, as they could not take the responsibility of stopping the operations of extensive lumbering establishments now going on. While desirous, however, of introducing a different policy, he did not wish to be understood as concurring in the sweeping charges brought by the member for West Durham (Mr. McLeod) against the timber agents, as a whole class.

Mr. LAUDER said he was glad the Government had shown no intention to withhold from the house any information deemed necessary to enable them to understand fully the working of the various departments. He thought, however, that a number of these motions for information were made in a form that was not strictly regular. He thought that, as in England, the house should procure information from the departments, by its own order, in virtue of its own authority, instead of by addressing the Crown. In England, proposed addresses to the Queen for information similar to what was asked for by several of the motions now on the paper, would be at once rejected, as being infringements on the privileges of the house.

Mr. RYKERT said he had made his motion yesterday, he thought, sufficiently comprehensive to have obviated the necessity for the present motion. He objected to the tone assumed by the member for Prescott (Mr. Boyd) in constantly lecturing hon. gentlemen on his (Mr. Rykert's) side of the house. The hon. gentleman said that all wise men came from the east. If he continued to wax so wrathful about nothing, as he had done this afternoon, he thought the house would be disposed to consider that others besides wise men came from the east.