

fore Government in 1863, and urging it at that time. In 1864 a portion of the money was distributed—the amount due, he believed, up to the time the order in Council was revoked. The difficulty that presented itself was that it was a general measure—one that affected the whole Province—and Government did not feel at liberty to single out the county of Bruce and give it what the rest did not get. But he would say that so far as the people of Bruce themselves were concerned, there was no class of settlers in Canada deserved so well the consideration of the Government. It would be in the recollection of many hon. gentlemen that that section of country was settled, and occupied from one end to the other in a few years. The land in the county had been altogether sold to actual settlers—a most important consideration for the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands to bear in mind. In 12 years time that county produced 666,000 bushels of wheat and added to the wealth of the of the country upwards of \$10,000,000 (hear). Now, bearing these facts in mind, if the Government could possibly make the settlers in this district an exception, so far as this fund was concerned, it ought to be done. He believed he could produce figures to corroborate all he had stated and a good deal more.

Mr. BLAKE maintained that injustice had been done these settlers; and that, though the policy complained of was a policy of a late Government of the Province of Canada—who had taken a particular policy respecting the Western Peninsula—it was not therefore to be assumed to be satisfactory, or one that ought to be adopted.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said that the provision enabling Government to deal with this fund was contained in a former Crown Lands Act. When the statutes were being consolidated, the person having charge of the consolidation shifted that provision from the Crown Lands Act and put it under another head. Subsequently, that policy was changed, and when the Crown Land Act of 1860 was passed it was supposed that this provision was repealed; but, as he had intimated, it was found to have been shifted. Now, inasmuch as the provision in the original Act was simply permissive, the Government of the day decided, by an order in Council, that instead of giving this money to the municipalities in that way, they would in future spend it on colonization roads.

The motion was then withdrawn.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. LAUDER moved that the name of the Hon. John McMurrish be added to the Hospital Committee.

Mr. HAYS hoped there would be no objection to add Mr. Gow's name also.

Both names were added to the committee.

THE ESTIMATES.

Sir HENRY SMITH, before the Public Bills and Orders were called, desired to ask a question of the Government. The question of the Estimates was one of great importance, as it affected the amount of money they would have at their disposal for all public grants, charitable, educational and otherwise. They also affected the remuneration of gentlemen on the Treasury Benches and members of the house. He wished to know if the Treasurer could inform the house when he would be prepared with the estimates for the year.

Hon. Mr. WOOD informed the hon. gentleman that they were making rapid progress with the estimates. Of course, it took some time to print them—information had to be procured from various points. But he expected that in a short time—in the course of a couple of weeks—he would be able to bring them down.

Mr. BLAKE said they were hoping to adjourn by that time.

THE REGISTRAR OF BRUCE.

Mr. BLAKE referred to an address he had moved for some time ago with reference to the dismissal of Mr. McClay, the registrar of Bruce. He had been informed then that the papers were at Ottawa, and assumed that the Government would have sent for them. There appeared to him to be a good deal of unnecessary delay in the matter. If the departments belonging to the Federal Government were not courteous enough to furnish at the earliest moment the information required by the Provincial Legislature—an expression of opinion from this Government to the Heads of the Departments would ensure more speedy transmission of returns. This particular return was one of considerable importance with reference to the subject

matter of a bill of which the hon. the Attorney-General had given notice—and he hoped the Government would make a representation in the matter.

Hon. Mr. CAMESON said that under the Confederation Act the Province was only entitled to receive such documents relating to this portion of the Dominion as the Governor-General saw fit to give. The Government had certain orders, transmitting to them certain documents, and others had not yet come, but information had been sent that they were under the consideration of the Governor-General in Council at present.

INTEREST ON ARREARS OF CROWN LANDS.

Mr. LAUDER inquired whether or not settlers going upon and occupying lands that have been abandoned by former settlers, with or without the consent of the Department, will be charged interest upon the purchase money from the date of the first occupancy or first agreement made with the Crown?

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS, in reply, said he would merely state what, he believed, had been the practice in the Crown Land Department. If a person purchased land—paid an instalment or two, and then abandoned it—that land was supposed to be his in the eye of the law, subject of course to the payment of the balance of the purchase money. If the conditions of sale had not been complied with, the Commissioner of Crown Lands had the power to cancel the sale. Of course these sales were all liable to forfeiture, when the purchase money or interest was not paid up, but before forfeiture, due notice would be given by advertising. With respect to the re-sale of these lands afterwards, he would state that where a person was found in possession of a lot, and had made improvements thereon and desired to settle there, the practice of the Crown had been to give him a pre-emption right. The Government had cancelled several sales where the parties taking the lots had not paid up, and where a person went in and made improvements on such lots, they had been sold to the squatters. If the person who went on the land was there as the representative of the first purchaser, he was treated as an assignee and called on to pay up. But while stating this much he did not desire to encourage persons to go on these lands in that way at present. He would not wish it to be understood that because a party thus went on the land he was to be entitled to pre-emption. Only in these cases where parties had gone on these lands and made improvements—cleared a number of acres—and were in possession several years—were Government disposed to grant pre-emption rights. They were shortly about to deal with the whole Crown Land policy and did not therefore think it advisable to encourage parties to go on Crown Lands at present in expectation of pre-emption rights.

PRISON INSPECTORS.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD moved the third reading of the bill respecting Prison Inspectors.

Mr. CUMBERLAND said he regretted his absence on a former occasion when this measure was before the house. It was proposed, he understood, to remove the present Prison Inspectors.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD explained that these gentlemen were now officers of the Dominion, and as the Government of the Province were responsible for Prison discipline and the administration of justice, they desired to appoint persons over these institutions who would be under the control of the Provincial Government.

Mr. CUMBERLAND said that his object in rising was to express regret that officers to whom the Province had been indebted for valuable services should be relieved from their duties without some testimony to their efficiency. He held in his hand a report of the Imperial authorities with reference to lunatic asylums, prisons, &c, in which special reference was made to these institutions in Canada, and this testimony was borne to the results of the labour of Canadian prison inspectors. The report says that "all Canadian institutions of this kind are under the control of a central board, to whom belongs the credit of the great improvements made in these establishments. The system of visitation and reports now in use in Canada cannot be improved on." In another part of the report it says—"All these public hospitals, asylums, &c, are more or less under the control of the Board of Inspectors, and the reports of these officers are clear, comprehensive, and practical." He (Mr. Cumberland), could