

residents had a right to lie by without paying a shilling of taxes for five years. The lands were then advertised and sold; and there were many instances within his knowledge in which they had not fetched enough to pay the taxes. Why should these absentees not be dealt with as the settler was, whose land might be sold for taxes after two years?

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—Ten per cent. is added every year to the unpaid taxes on non-resident lands.

Mr. LAUDER said it was eight per cent., but that was no equivalent for the grievances arising from these taxes, not being available from year to year for township improvements; and the eight per cent. did not go to the township municipalities at all.

Mr. BOYD said the warmth displayed by the Premier in resisting this resolution seemed to indicate that he had a personal interest in the matter. (Order!) The age of monopolies was past. The very utterances of the Premier himself, within the last week or two, about restricting corporations in the holding of lands, furnished strong evidence of this fact. But, when he heard the hon. gentleman's argument to-night on this resolution, that they must not touch vested rights, he scarcely knew what to think of his sincerity. That was the very cry raised by the Hudson's Bay Company, when it was proposed to open up the North West to the influences of civilization. The same cry was raised when it was proposed to put an end to the monopoly of the East India Company. He (Mr. Boyd) felt there was need for legislation in the direction now proposed. Measures should be at once adopted, which would prevent at once and forever the public lands being locked up. As regarded the Canada Company, if it was found that they did not comply with the conditions of their charter, they should be compelled to do so. He would have liked that the resolution had embraced something with reference to the Canada and other companies. He would prefer it, if the Government would allow the phraseology of the motion to be altered, so that they could go into committee and discuss the whole subject.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—Discuss it here.

Mr. BOYD said, his proposition being refused, he must vote for the motion.

Mr. FERGUSON said he had no doubt it was the general opinion of the country that large tracts of land should not be held back from improvement, whether by individuals or corporations. The conduct of the member for Bothwell, in proposing this resolution,