

lender. If it was said that it would thus be twice taxed, he would reply—not so, for the borrower probably paid his debts with it in small sums, and thus removed it from taxation.

Mr. SINCLAIR thought the committee had been badly treated by the Government. If they had known that their labours would have been so treated, they would not have gone into the matter with so much zeal. There were some anomalies in the present law, such as that of the sliding scale, which, he thought, should not be tolerated a day longer. He was surprised to hear the Provincial Secretary doubt whether the labours of the settler advanced the value of the lands of the non-residents. When a man wanted to buy land, he inquired whether there were roads, schools, saw-mills, grist-mills, medical men, churches—and to most of these the non-residents contributed nothing. The residents found that, after all their arduous labours of years, the non-resident lands sold almost as high as their own. The non-residents held their lands to the injury of the sections in which they were situated, and to the great detriment of the actual settler. The country expected that, while the rights of non-residents and of companies like the Canada Company should be respected, they should be made to contribute more than they now did to the advancement of the country. He thought the country would be very much disappointed at there being no legislation this session in amendment of the assessment law.

Mr. SMITH (Grenville) urged that there should be immediate legislation to restore the franchise to the classes in towns and cities who had been deprived of it. As to the member for Bothwell's scheme for taxing wild lands, he thought the idea was good, but the scheme would require to be well matured. He (Mr. Smith) happened to own a few lots, which he had bought at Sheriff's sale for taxes. But the taxes on them were so heavy, that he had the prospect of having them all re-sold for taxes. On one lot, for which he paid \$150, he had paid taxes for four years from 1862 to 1865, amounting to \$100. He had now a bill for \$60 for 1866 and 1867; and he would be happy to give up the lot to any gentleman for \$150. Assessors, he believed, were apt to assess the non-resident lands at a proportionately higher value than resident lands.

Mr. WALLIS expressed himself in favour of postponing the whole question till next session.

Mr. SMITH (Kent) pointed out the necessity of legislation, in order to remove disfranchisement from—among others—a great many of his own constituents.

Mr. McKIM expressed his surprise that the Provincial Secretary should have indulged in so much special pleading to defend the non-resident speculators, who were the greatest curse Canada had ever seen. The Premier had spoken highly of the Canada Company, and said they had contributed largely to the Provincial revenue. If they did, the money had come out of the pockets of the poor settlers. The lands held by these speculators greatly retarded the progress of the country. He thought it would only be right to put a special tax on them; but that was not the proposition before the house. It was simply that their lands should be taxed equally with the lands of residents. They had sat here night after night, having long debates, and they all ended in nothing. One question after another was postponed till next session. His heart was sick of such work. Members might think it all very nice to sit here and talk buncombe, doing nothing, but their constituents were intelligent people, although they lived in the backwoods, and they would understand such conduct. If ever there was a time when there ought to be legislation to do justice to the poor man, who had gone into the wild woods and made Canada what

with his axe on his shoulder, who had made Canada, and not men like the Treasurer, by their loud talking.

Hon. Mr. WOOD.—The hon. gentleman is mistaken. I made my money by chopping and logging.

Mr. McKIM.—I do not mean you, but the Secretary. (Laughter). It was the Secretary I had my eye on. (Laughter). He once had me in the witness-box, and I have not forgotten him. (Laughter).

Mr. COYNE thought that the Government perhaps, after all, had taken the most prudent course with reference to this matter. He would have liked that they could have gone to their constituents, and shown their actual legislation. But, as they could not do that, they could at least tell their constituents that they supported a Government who declared they were giving attention to the question, and next session would bring down a matured scheme on their responsibility as a Government. He had no hesitation in supporting the motion that the order be discharged.

Mr. HAYS supported the course taken by the Government, as he represented a constituency in which there was a large amount of Canada Company lands. It might be for his interest to make a buncombe speech and denounce the Canada Company, but he considered that the Company had rights which should be respected just as well as those of private individuals. As for the denunciation of non-residents, if the member for North Wellington would come to his riding, he could show him many lots taken in liquidation of debts by parties who found their value eaten up by taxes, and who would readily sell them to the member for North Wellington at their original cost, without asking a farthing for interest or the taxes they had paid while in their possession. He was opposed to taxing mortgages. The tax would in the end fall on the poor borrower. He did not think much good had resulted from this discussion. He did not know that a new idea had been elicited which was not contained in the amendments placed before them in this Bill. He was in favour generally of the amendments, but agreed that they should be postponed till next session.

Mr. RYKERT said, if the Government had announced a few days ago that they were not to permit legislation, his discussion might have been saved. But, if it had brought out nothing else, it had brought out this, that the Government would bring down a measure as a Government this session. The amendments met the almost unanimous approval of the house, as he was satisfied they met the almost unanimous approval of the country, and he still thought there was no reason why they should not have become law. The only points objected to were the tax on mortgages and the wild land tax. The former was assented to by the Government themselves; nor did they object to the other, so far as the principle was carried out in this Bill. He believed the country would be dissatisfied because there was no legislation on the question; but, as the Government undertook the responsibility of postponing, he would not press it farther. He observed that some miserable scribblers, in the interest of the Government, had undertaken to write him down. He could not help this, having merely acted as the mouth-piece of the committee. He wished to know if the Government would allow the Municipal Bill to be proceeded with.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD asked what were the amendments?

Mr. RYKERT—They have been before the House for several days.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD appealed to the leader of the Opposition whether he had ever known a Government receive such treatment as this Government had received at the hands of the hon. gentleman who had just spoken? The hon. member asked him to consent to have this committee appointed. If he had known that the motion authorized the committee to report a Bill, he would not, as leader of the Government, have consented, for he would have known the danger of having a report made by an hon. gentleman hostile to the Government. The hon. gentleman might try to conceal his hostility, but it was cropping out on every occasion. If he was friendly he would not stab them by saying they would suffer in the estimation of the country in consequence of their course on this question. When Sir John A. Macdonald committed to Mr. McKellar and Mr. Mackenzie the charge of the Municipal and Assessment Acts, he knew they were strongly opposed to his Government, but on all occasions they yielded to the leader of the Government. This was