

which could not be entertained until the first was disposed of. He denied the truth of the Attorney-General's statement about the drinking in the committee room at Ottawa, and asserted that there was not a bottle of whiskey in that room from the day the session opened till its close.

Attorney General MACDONALD—But there was champagne.

Mr. OLIVER could not view this petition in the light in which it was looked upon by the leader of the Government and the leader of the Opposition. In his opinion this was a very simple, straightforward petition, asking not for money or land, but simply that the House would give its consideration to this important project. He believed that the country would be glad to receive authentic information with regard to this great scheme. He believed that was the feeling in his own constituency, although a western one.

Mr. BEATTY said it was simply a question of order, and he would not enter into the merits of the question. He was on the Committee appointed last year, and his opinion was that petitions of this nature should be received, and himself and others drew up a protest, but the majority were against its reception. This rule was adopted, and the question now was, did the petition come within the rule? The petition really did ask for something; it contemplated receiving aid from the House. The petitioners asked that it might be referred to a Committee, in order that it might recommend the grant of the vast tract of Crown Land to the Company which now they did not dare to ask for. Referring to the statement of the Attorney-General, as to the supply of whiskey, &c., at Ottawa, necessary to pass a Bill of this nature, he said he wondered, if there was whiskey about, the hon. member for South Simcoe (Mr. Ferguson) was not aware of it. So long as they had the present rule the petition could not, he thought, be received.

Mr. SINCLAIR said, if this was merely an evasion of the rule, the petition ought not to be received. They were all of opinion that there was some idea in the petition as to aid, and he did not think that they should relax the rule on the present occasion.

Mr. LOUNT impressed upon the House that the petition did not ask in any way for assistance, or for a grant of any character.

The SPEAKER then gave his decision. He said the ruling last year was that no petition could be received which asked for aid directly or indirectly. He had come to the conclusion that this was an indirect application for aid, and it was impossible for him, sitting there, to disobey an order of the House, whatever might have been the ruling at Ottawa or anywhere else. He must, therefore, decide that, until the rule in question was rescinded, this petition could not be received.

Mr. FERGUSON appealed from the Speaker's decision to the House.

On a division, the House sustained the ruling of the Speaker by a vote of 46 to 13.

YEAS.—Messrs. Baxter, Beatty, Calvin, Cameron, Carling (London,) Carling (Huron,) Carnegie, Clarke, Clemens, Code, Colquhoun, Cook, Corby, Craig (Glengarry,) Crosby, Currie, Eyre, Ferrier, Finlayson, Fitzsimmons, Galbraith, Graham (Hastings,) Hopper, Lauder, Luton, Macdonald, Matchett, Monteith, McColl (Elgin,) McGill, McKellar, McLeod, Perry, Read, Richards, Secord, Sinclair, Smith (Kent,) Smith (Leeds and Grenville),

Smith (Middlesex,) Strange, Tett, Trow, Wigle, Williams (Durham,) Wilson.—46.

NAYS.—Messrs. Boulter, Boyd, Ferguson, Gow, Grahame (York,) Greely, Hays, Lount, McCall (Norfolk,) Oliver, Scotts (Grey,) Swinerton, Wallis.—13.

REGISTRARS, &c.

Mr. GREELY (at the request of Attorney-General Macdonald postponed the following question, of which he had given notice:—Whether the Government, by the new forms of securities lately issued to Registrars and other Public Officers in the Province, it was intended that all office-holders should be possessed of real estate.

THE RETURNS OF THE COURT OF CHANCERY.

Mr. LAUDER asked if returns had been submitted by the Court of Chancery, similar to those submitted by the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, of the monies lying for distribution to claimants in that Court?

Hon. Secretary CAMERON, in reply, said that the Court of Chancery had not yet made any returns, and the Courts of Common Pleas and Queen's Bench were each of them disinclined to do it, as it would put them to very much inconvenience and expense. The Court of Chancery had not yet been able to do it, and they said they would be unable to do it for some time. Of course they would take every means to obtain it, and in making that answer perhaps it would be very well that gentlemen in moving for returns would not move for returns except those by which there was some object to be served. (Hear, hear) This preparation put a great many officers to a great deal of trouble.

Mr. LAUDER said his object was to ascertain the position of the fund, which was a very important matter. He should therefore press the matter upon the consideration of the Government.

Hon. Secretary CAMERON—The House have required it, and it must be done. There is no doubt about it.

THE LATE CHANCELLOR.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD moved that the House on its rising should adjourn till half-past 7 o'clock on Wednesday (to-morrow) in order to allow those members of the Legislature who desired to pay a tribute of respect to the late Chancellor, to attend the funeral in the afternoon. He intended personally to be present, and he hoped as many of the members as could attend would be there. He had known the late respected Chancellor from his childhood, and had always esteemed him, and it would be a long time before they saw his equal. When the history of the country came to be written, his name would occupy one of the most honourable of positions.

The motion which was generally accorded in by the House, having been carried,

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD moved that the House do now adjourn as stated. Carried.

The House then adjourned at a quarter to five.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following notices of motion have been given:—

Mr. Hays—Enquiry whether the right to issue marriage licenses, and to appoint issuers of the same, is within the province of the Dominion or Local Governments, and whether any definite understanding has been arrived at as to which Government has the right.

Mr. Boyd—Bill entitled "Registration of Copartnerships Act, 1869."

Mr. Christie—Enquiry whether during the present session they intend to introduce a general Bill under which Mutual Fire Insurance Companies may be incorporated.

Mr. Lauder—Address for a return showing the receipts and expenditure, during the last two years, of the Canadian Institute of Toronto, showing also the number of meetings held during the past twelve months, the number of lectures delivered, and subjects upon which they were delivered, also a statement of the present memberships of the Institute, and the increase or decrease during the last five years. Also a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the Institute.

Mr. Carnegie—Enquiry whether it is the intention of the Government to refer the Grammar and Common School Bills to a select Committee with power to enquire into the position of Upper Canada College as incident thereto.

Mr. McLeod—Address for copies of all correspondence since last session of the Legislature between the Chief Superintendent of Education and the Government, respecting the contemplated changes in Grammar and Common School Acts.

Mr. Christie—The appointment of a select Committee to enquire into and report upon the endowment and utility of Upper Canada College.

Mr. Lauder—Enquiry whether or not it is intended to introduce during the present session a measure to enable the Commissioner of Crown Lands to adopt more expeditious measures to settle disputes as to unpatented Lands and to reduce the purchase money or throw off the interest upon purchase—upon lands money—where it appears that the purchasers have a just claim for such reduction or abatement.

Mr. Lauder—Appointment of a Committee to reconsider the report of the Committee on the Rule of this House, and the said Rule preventing the reception of all petitions, the granting the prayer of which would involve an expenditure of public funds.

Mr. McLeod—Address for a return showing all Provincial monies, if any, invested by Government during the current year, and the nature of the securities, together with a statement of all amounts on the 1st November, 1869, on deposit, and the name of the Bank or Banks in which the same may be deposited.

Handwritten notes:
* An Resolution
must be
also p. 26