

Mr. WIGLE from the Town Council of Archersburg, praying that no Act may pass to change the location of the county town of Essex; and eight others to the same effect.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey)—From the Township Council of Holland, praying for the establishment of a school for the blind; and ten others to the same effect.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. CARNEGIE presented the report of Wooden Railways, recommending the adoption of the system of Wooden Railways for the development of the backwood districts of the country.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD presented the report of Standing Committee on Private Bills; and also of the Railway Committee, communicating the result of the meeting of the Committee held this morning.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said with a view to test the opinion of this House upon the course pursued by the Committee in negating the preamble of this Bill, he had moved that the evidence on which that decision was arrived at should be submitted to the House.

Mr. RYKERT rose to a point of order. The question under discussion was Bill No 36, and the hon. member had no right to mention any other.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS contended that he had a right to mention the proceedings of the Committee.

Mr. COYNE hoped the House would allow the hon. gentleman to proceed. He would soon convince the House that he was in the wrong.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS continued that the promoters of the G. W. R. Co.'s Bill refused to bring up members of the Board of that Corporation, to establish the correctness of the statement that they were prepared to help the new Company through with their scheme.

THE MEMBER FOR RENFREW.

The newly elected member for Renfrew (Mr. Murray) was introduced by Messrs. Lyon and Code, and took his seat amid applause.

Mr. McKELLAR, in seconding the resolution of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, said he had never, within his recollection, heard of such an unprecedented course as had been pursued by the Committee with respect to this Bill.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said it was admitted that there should be strong reasons before the House adopted the unusual course proposed. He had listened to his hon. friend, and the hon. member for Bothwell, and had not heard anything that indicated that this Bill did not receive fair consideration before the Railway Committee.

Mr. RYKERT only wished the hon. member would pay the same attention to petitions on all occasions as on this. He remembered an instance where a number of petitions were presented to the hon. gentleman's department, praying for reform of abuses, which were disregarded.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said the numerous petitions praying for the extension of the old charters afforded a strong reason why the Bill should be allowed to pass.

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would not establish such a precedent as the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands desired. If it were once established that there could be appeals from the Committee in this way, they would lose all power.

Mr. FERGUSON did not think it would be honest, just or reasonable to adopt the resolution of the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, and thus take all power out of the hands of the Committee.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS denied having made any such assertion. Mr. FERGUSON said the hon. member would not deny having passed some very severe strictures on the Committee.

Mr. HAYS said he would name him. It was the hon. member for Lincoln, (Mr. Rykert). Was that the proper position to take? Mr. RYKERT—No, no.

Mr. HAYS said he would never pledge himself to any Bill before he heard the evidence before a Committee. With regard to the floating of the scheme, the promoters of the Bill could not obtain the required capital while the present gauge was maintained, and they therefore came to the House and asked them to alter the gauge.

Mr. HAYS thought his word was as good as that of the hon. member for St. Catharines. He (Mr. H.) repeated that the hon. member asked him to burke the Bill.

Mr. RYKERT—I distinctly deny it. Mr. HAYS appealed to the hon. member for West Peterboro' to say if the hon. member for St. Catharines had not asked him to burke the Bill?

Mr. RYKERT said he told the hon. gentleman to stand by the rules of the House. If that was not his duty, he did not know what his duty should be.

Mr. COYNE thought that the most colourable character to what had occurred. He never had any confidence in Mr. Thompson, and the rules of the House had not been complied with. But the Committee decided that the question should be decided upon its merits before the Railway Committee.

Mr. TROW had no interest in either line; but he would like to see fair play. Mr. Thompson still held his charter, and till it expired it was hardly fair to discuss the matter.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said the Great Western Railway did not owe the Government anything. An arrangement had lately been effected by which their debt was discharged.

Mr. McDUGALL believed the Committee should be allowed to make another report on this Bill. Let them take the evidence and bring it before the House, and if it should not be considered sufficient for rejecting the Bill, the House could then take up the matter themselves.

Attorney-General MACDONALD desired to settle the question, if possible. The hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands had made a motion to place the Bill on the Orders of the Day, and an amendment had been moved to refer it back to the Railway Committee.

Mr. RYKERT expressed his readiness to withdraw his motion. Mr. BLAKE understood by this motion that the preamble amounted to nothing, but that the Committee was to go on to consider the clauses on their merits.

After some further discussion the motion was carried, and the House rose for recess. After recess,

FIRST READING.

Mr. EVANS—Bill to further extend the Registration of Conveyances to Religious Institutions in Ontario.

PRINTING PETITIONS.

Mr. LYON moved that the petition of the members of the Civil Service, Ottawa, with reference to assessment, should be printed. He was not in favour of the petition; but he thought, as it was a very important one, it would be very well to have it printed.

Mr. McKELLAR thought the matter should be referred to the Printing Committee. They might prepare an abstract of it. It would be expensive to print it in extenso.