

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa) said that the Treasurer had mentioned several cases in which he had done justice to Upper Canada; and had boasted that in the matter of the Canada Central Railway he had saved the country an untold number of acres. He (Scott) was present at the Railway Committee, and could assure the Treasurer that without his presence there the lands of the country would have been perfectly safe. The Attorney-General opposed the Bill, and the Treasurer followed; but for what reason he (Mr. Scott) could not say. The Government should be satisfied with facts, and not make use of fiction.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that as regarded the Canada Central Railway, all he desired to claim was that he did not wish to give any additional right to persons about to invest money in the Canada Central to expect lands to which they were not entitled.

Mr. HAYS congratulated the Government on the action they had taken.

Mr. MONTEITH said that the Treasurer was entitled to great credit for the efforts he had made in the matter of the Land Improvement Fund.

Mr. McDOUGALL said that great credit was due to the hon. member for South Bruce for his action in respect to the Land Improvement Fund. That hon. gentleman had introduced the matter, and pushed it strenuously; and every disinterested person, and the country generally, would thank the hon. member for South Bruce for the present result. (Hear, hear.) The counties in central Canada would remember with gratitude what had been done by that hon. member. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. FERGUSON claimed credit to the Government for their action in regard to the Land Improvement Fund.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) said that the hon. member for South Bruce was entitled to credit for his exertions, but so was the Treasurer.

Mr. TROW said he did not know anybody more entitled to credit than the hon. member for South Bruce, for the manner in which he had advocated the interests of the backwoods settlers before the Dominion Parliament.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that the hon. member for South Bruce had given the Treasurer credit for his exertions in the matter of the Fund; but he (Mr. Sinclair) was sorry to say that this spirit was not reciprocated. It was rather mean of the Treasurer to try to rob the hon. member for South Bruce of the credit that belonged to him.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that if he had been understood to say that the hon. member for South Bruce did not give assistance in this matter, then he was misunderstood.

Dr. BOULTER said that no member of the committee had done more than the hon. member for South Bruce.

Mr. LAUDER said that the organs of the hon. member for South Bruce had been praising him for having done everything in this matter. He (Mr. Lauder) hoped they would now see their mistake.

Mr. BLAKE said that he had no newspaper organs, and did not know what the public journals had said on this matter. When he proposed his motion he contented himself with a bare statement; for he was not in the habit of taking credit to himself. He had stated the course the Government had taken, and had added that he thought his statement would not be just without advertising in terms he thought generous to the efforts of his friend, the Treasurer. Since he had spoken, the debate seemed to have degenerated into a question of ascertaining who should have the credit to be the first to redress a great wrong. He (Mr. Blake) was not to be blamed for the turn the debate had taken. As to what he had done in this matter, he would leave the record of his acts to speak for itself. The Treasurer had laboured hard to show what his friends and himself had done. The Canada Central was brought up, the Building Fund and the Seigniorial Fund—all to show what the Treasurer had done and had failed to do. He (Mr. Blake) could not see what these matters had to do with the question before the House. The question was not what the Government had to do with these various matters, but what they should do with respect to the rights of the settlers. He (Mr. Blake) would wish to know what was to become of the \$100,000, being the arrears of the Crown Lands received anterior to July, 1867. The Treasurer said he would adopt the views taken by

the Government with respect to this sum. In that case the effect would be to increase the public debt of the late Province of Canada.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that if the hon. member for South Bruce looked at the award he would find that there were several items still unsettled that would affect the debt. The debt was apportioned between Upper and Lower Canada on a ratio, be it larger or smaller. If the \$100,000 were allowed they would increase the debt of Ontario, as the hon. member for South Bruce had said.

Mr. BLAKE enquired, if the \$100,000 were disallowed by the Government at Ottawa, might not Ontario pay as much to the settlers as it would have to pay if the debt were allowed?

Hon. Mr. WOOD replied in the affirmative.

Mr. BLAKE said that the House might regard the question as to the \$675,000 as settled absolutely under these circumstances; and having been assured by the gentlemen opposite that they would move in this matter, it would be useless for him to press his motion that the Speaker should leave the chair. The object he had in view in pressing the matter to a satisfactory decision was accomplished. He had to congratulate the people of the east and west on this result, which was mainly attributable to the labours of the committee, the members of which had worked more laboriously than those of any committee he had known in this House. The Treasurer had admitted that the report of that committee was the groundwork of his scheme on this question. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said this question had been up in the Parliament of the late Province of Canada, but his party had found that those who preceded them had set their faces against a recognition of the claims of the settlers. He was so weak when head of the Government, having only 2 of a majority, that his party never found themselves in a position to deal with the question. Unless members of the Ontario Government had been in that House we should not have had the award to day. He was proud in being connected with a colleague who knew the finances of Ontario so thoroughly as the Treasurer did. With regard to the arbitration, there was no man in Canada so able to master all the points as clearly as the Treasurer; and in consequence we had the award, which he (the Attorney-General) hoped was settled for ever. There were many members who did not take the trouble to read the report.

Mr. BLAKE said that he moved the resolutions originally in this House. In Ottawa the Attorney-General thought they were right, but here he thought they were wrong.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said there was never any difficulty in this House on the Land Improvement Fund; the difficulty was in the old Government of Canada.

Mr. BLAKE said that the Government had got \$180,000 they had not paid out; they had been receiving money for the last three years.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said there was a small sum in their hands since 1867; but it was considered to be better that each of the municipalities should get its share all at once, instead of piecemeal. After stating that the Government were anxious to get the award and the decision of the arbitrators, the Attorney-General proceeded to comment on the remarks made by Mr. Blake with respect to the arbitration.

Mr. BLAKE said that the Attorney-General's remarks were characterized by gross unfairness; for he knew that, according to the rules of debate, he (Mr. Blake) could not reply to them. He was not going to be so irregular as to reply to those attacks. (Cries of "Go on.") He (Mr. Blake) pronounced them to be most unfair, for they were made by the Atty.-General under such circumstances as prevented his (Mr. Blake's) replying. (Hear, hear.)

The matter then dropped.

QUESTIONS.

In reply to Mr. HAYS,

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS (who was almost inaudible in the gallery) was understood to say that the lands on Lake Superior had been advertised at the rate of one dollar an acre. There were no maps of Silver Island.

Mr. BAXTER asked whether the debt upon the Hamilton and Port Dover Plank and Stone Road was transferred to Ontario, as an asset by the Arbitrators.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said by the terms of the British North America Act all the finances should be the property of Canada, and should be taken in reduction of the debt of the respective Provinces. This was one of that class of debts which belonged to Canada.

In reply to Mr. McLEOD,

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that in consequence of the Manitoba Government not being constituted, there had been no surveyors' reports touching the boundary line between Manitoba and this Province.

In reply to Mr. McLEOD as to the Provincial moneys on deposit,

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that there were \$1,450,000 in the Bank of Montreal at 4 per cent, and about \$80,000 in the Royal Canadian Bank at the same rate.

In reply to Mr. LOUNT,

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that the Ontario Government had not been consulted in the appointment of the Canal Commissioners.

Mr. LOUNT was glad to hear that the Ontario Government were not to blame for these unfortunate appointments.

In reply to Mr. BOYD, for returns as to gaols,

Hon. Mr. WOOD said the report of the Commissioner of Public Works would cover the motion of Mr. Boyd for returns concerning the gaols of this Province. The Government would give all possible information.

The motion by Mr. Boyd, as modified by his own consent, was carried.

Mr. SCOTT asked and obtained leave to introduce a Bill to incorporate the North Grey Railway Company.

The House rose at 5:35.