

Attorney-General MACDONALD introduced a Bill to establish Registry Offices in Ottawa and Saguenay Relief.

Attorney-General MACDONALD rose to move the House into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of voting a sum for the relief of the sufferers by the Ottawa and Saguenay fires.

Mr. BLAKE asked if the Lieut. Governor recommended any specific sum. Hon. J. S. MACDONALD replied in the negative.

Mr. BLAKE said the constitutional rule was that His Excellency should specify in his message the sum required, and then for the House to determine whether a greater or less sum should be voted.

The SPEAKER having left the chair, Mr. BLAKE was called thereto, and the House went into Committee of the Whole.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved that the sum of \$25,000 be granted to the sufferers of the Ottawa fires, and \$5,000 to the sufferers by the fires in the Saguenay district.

The motion was carried without discussion, and the committee rose and reported.

LAND ARREARAGES. On the motion that the Speaker leave the chair, and that the House go into Committee of the Whole on the resolutions of the Hon. J. S. MACDONALD, respecting the Crown, Clergy, and Grammar School lands,

Mr. BLAKE said he had an amendment on this subject. When the matter was previously before the House, he had the liberty of pointing out to the House the claims of the settlers on the Common School lands, and the extraordinary measure the Government proposed to pursue in reference to the arrearages on these lands, when compared with their treatment of the arrearages on other classes of lands.

His argument in favour of relief being accorded to the settlers on Common School lands was based on two grounds. The first ground was that to a very large extent the settlers on Common School lands would be found not entitled to relief because their lands were of a very superior quality, and that, therefore, the measure would have but little practical application.

It was to be remembered, however, that the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands announced that an measure would be of but exceptional application, and that the Government did not propose anything like a wholesale or general abatement in the price of land, and that it was only in exceptional cases that the question of the Government scheme would be available to the settler.

Therefore the argument that, in very great many cases, it was not on such an equality, with regard to land, with settlers on other classes of lands, did not at all apply to destroy the claim of those who were unfortunately not in that position. This was the case with other classes, dealt with, no more than a very small amount of arrears being due on Grammar School lands, and consequently the number of those entitled to relief would be also very small.

The second point urged was that the settlers on the Common School lands were in an unfortunate position for themselves, because, as a matter of fact, the fund was a trust fund. He pointed out that, although the fund was a trust one as between Ontario and Quebec, still the larger proportion of the fund belonged to Ontario; and that, so far as that portion of it which belonged to this Province was concerned, it was not a trust fund, since by an Act of last session introduced by the hon. Treasurer the fund had been declared a part of the consolidated revenue.

The only fund that could at this time be denominated a trust fund was that of the Clergy Reserves. The difficulty which was raised was only a technical one. The Province collected the whole amount, but it came to them merely as acting managers, and they paid it over to the Dominion Government, which repaid back a certain proportion of it. It was said that this rendered the extending of relief impossible, but he did not think so. The Government were going to proceed on the principle of first estimating the amount which ought to be paid by a settler, in equity and fairness, and then the excess over that sum which was due, either as principal or interest, by the settler was to be reduced. There was no difficulty in determining the same proposition in reference to the settler on the Common School lands. They might determine the amount which they would deduct, and then reduce the amount in the proportion which the Province was entitled to receive of the total. The question was simply one of bookkeeping, and there could be no difficulty in doing this partial act of justice to the settler on the Common School lands, who, if he had been fortunate enough to have settled on Clergy, Crown or Grammar School lands, would have received full justice. (Hear.) He would therefore move the following amendment:

"To leave out all the words after 'that,' and insert as follows:—That this House, having regard to the fact that a large proportion of the income from common school lands is to be paid to and will form part of the consolidated revenue fund of Ontario, feels bound to express its conviction that the settlers on those lands will have just grounds of dissatisfaction unless, while provision is being made for the settlement of arrears on clergy lands, Crown lands, and grammar school lands, some analogous measure of relief, to the extent in which this province is interested in these lands, is extended to the settlers on common school lands."

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the amendment proposed by the hon. member for South Bruce amounted to a motion of want of confidence. (Hear.) (Hear.) Mr. WOOD now wished to ask the House if it were prepared to support the motion and the hon. member for South Bruce. The people of Lower Canada were very eager to seize upon anything that would justify them in breaking up the award of the arbitrators. Any discussions on these lands would be keenly scrutinized by Lower Canada, especially since the remarks made on the arbitration by the hon. member for South Bruce.

Mr. BLAKE—I was you and your colleagues.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he would be glad to have this matter cleared up. The Globe had two columns and a half of a flashing article this morning on the subject of the Land Improvement Fund; he hoped it would also clear up this matter.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear. Hon. Mr. WOOD said he proposed to leave the capital of the school funds untouched and inalienable, the House pledging itself to make ample provision out of the consolidated revenue for school purposes—a provision which would go far beyond the principle of the Common School Fund. The House should guard this money.

Mr. BLAKE—Who is touching it? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Hon. Mr. WOOD said that a writer in the press had charged the hon. member for South Bruce with attacking the Government and the courts of law; in time, perhaps, the hon. member might attack the fund.

Mr. BLAKE—That is not the present proposition. (Laughter.) Her, Mr. WOOD said the point was this—were there any persons holding these school lands who could complain of hardships, or were those lands not worth intrinsically what they cost? There were no complaints on these heads, and such being the case, to comprehend in a measure of relief the occupants of these lands would be the greatest folly.

Mr. BLAKE—Do you make no allowance for improvements? Hon. Mr. WOOD said he did not make any such allowance, for it had nothing to do with the matter.

Mr. BLAKE—Do the Government intend to investigate the value of the Crown, Clergy and School lands at the time of their purchase, and not their present value? Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the Government did not intend to interfere with any man's land, nor give relief when it could be shown that the lands were now worth more than the purchase money.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear. Hon. Mr. WOOD said that a writer in the press had charged the hon. member for South Bruce with attacking the Government and the courts of law; in time, perhaps, the hon. member might attack the fund.

Mr. BLAKE—That is not the present proposition. (Laughter.) Her, Mr. WOOD said the point was this—were there any persons holding these school lands who could complain of hardships, or were those lands not worth intrinsically what they cost? There were no complaints on these heads, and such being the case, to comprehend in a measure of relief the occupants of these lands would be the greatest folly.

Mr. BLAKE—Do you make no allowance for improvements? Hon. Mr. WOOD said he did not make any such allowance, for it had nothing to do with the matter.

Mr. BLAKE—Do the Government intend to investigate the value of the Crown, Clergy and School lands at the time of their purchase, and not their present value? Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the Government did not intend to interfere with any man's land, nor give relief when it could be shown that the lands were now worth more than the purchase money.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear. Hon. Mr. WOOD said that if it were a question of giving relief, or allowing people to leave the country, then relief should be given, let the after consequences be what they might.

Mr. BLAKE—Do you mean to say you are not bound, after the award of the arbitrators, to collect the moneys due on those lands? Hon. Mr. WOOD said the Government were bound to exercise all diligence in having these funds collected.

Mr. BLAKE—Then you will find Lower Canada making a row about that. Hon. Mr. WOOD was not afraid to say what he had to say; and he would tell Lower Canada that the Government would collect these moneys with all due diligence.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear. Hon. Mr. WOOD said the Government would not press the people so hard as to put the sheriff in their houses; but the Government would act with as much diligence as regarded the people of Lower Canada as they had acted towards us for the past eighteen or twenty years. He would tell the House, in conclusion, that they had no power to change the law with respect to the school fund.

Mr. MONTEITH said that in his district he had not heard of any application for reductions on school lands. He hoped the Government resolutions would be carried.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) said that as far as regarded the county of Grey, there was an order in Council, passed in 1863, warning all settlers who had only made one payment on school lands that if they did not pay up the lands would be sold. In 1864 there was a sale of lands in the village of Dunbar, and more school lands than Crown lands were sold. There were taxes on the school lands of four or five dollars per acre, and yet the lands were sold at an average of a dollar an acre. (Hear, hear.) There were not purchasers for these lands, and so the revenue had to suffer. If we were going to have this state of things for twenty years, the longer it lasted the less revenue there would be. (Hear, hear.) It was much better to begin and suffer loss now than suffer it twenty years hence. (Hear, hear.) Since Confederation passed, and the local Government came into power, the sale of these lands had been stopped; and, of course, there was so much diminution of the revenue. (Hear, hear.) It was better to come to terms with the settlers now than at a future day. The people were not satisfied. They were afraid they would be molested; and they would argue that if there was to be a reduction on the other lands there should also be one on the school lands. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS admitted that some school lands had been sold, in some cases at prices beyond their value; and that there was much more urgency in these cases than in those of the school lands, which were located in the richest parts of the country, and sold at a uniform rate of two dollars an acre. The Government did not consider it desirable at the present time to take any steps with regard to these lands; but if, ultimately, the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario should agree to make an abatement then they might make what agreement they wished. They ought not to give up any portion of money which might be presumed to belong to Quebec, for it would be made a point against them in the Dominion House. They should not make any abatement on a point in which the Province of Quebec was interested pecuniarily.

Mr. BLAKE—Does my resolution say you should? Mr. RICHARDS—I cannot tell.

Mr. BOYD—Read the resolution. (Hear.) Mr. RICHARDS said that there was no doubt that a feeling did prevail in Quebec on the arbitration which was heightened by the remarks of the hon. gentleman opposite. It would be impolitic for them to open up this question now, as it would give Quebec some reason for saying that this Province was not standing by the award of the arbitrators. The Government intended to maintain the award as final. He considered that

of the Crown Lands Department consistently, since great differences would necessarily arise in the sale of lands. No course could be adopted to carry out the resolution that would not be likely to result in mischief. He would admit that there might be cases of hardship in the cases of the settlers on the common school lands; but they would not compare with the hardships which were inflicted upon settlers on the other lands.

Mr. LAUDER referred to the cases of townships of Osprey and Egremont, where the proposed resolutions would create diversity, and he would like to see the measure of relief made general.

Several Members—(Hear, hear, and laughter.) Mr. LAUDER said that hon. members might try "hear, hear," but he was there to represent his constituents, and not as the mere tool of any man. (Oh!) They used to get along very well together; but now, the Opposition, under the leadership of the hon. member for South Bruce, was getting weaker and weaker every day. The Globe had blown the hon. member up to the point at which he now stood, and it alone kept him there. It had published bogus letters from his (Lauder's) constituency, only to be refuted by others of much greater weight. Whole townships were deserting the hon. gentleman, and though he pretended to lead the great Reform party, the people would not follow him in his opposition to a Government which gave good measures, and was one of economy. He hoped the Government would next session extend the measure of relief to the settlers on common school lands. The question involved was merely one of book-keeping. (Hear, hear.) He thought the hon. member for Bruce had some other object in bringing forward the resolutions than the one he had stated; they were introduced to surprise members into voting against the interests of their constituencies; but he (Mr. Blake) would find that both himself (Lauder) and the member for North Grey (Mr. Scott) were not trammelled in the way that he was. He would vote in favour of affirming the principle that equal relief should be given to all.

Mr. MCKELLAR said the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Lauder) had followed the example set him by the members of the Government. The hon. gentleman had the fear of THE GLOBE before his eyes. (Hear.) The hon. Treasurer had expressed himself as very much dissatisfied with the manner in which that newspaper was managed, and also at the fact that it did not make his (Mr. McKellar's) name as prominent as it had of yore. He thanked the hon. gentleman for his sympathy, though he might tell him further that it was quite unnecessary for the hon. gentleman to interest himself so greatly in the matter, since he (Mr. McKellar) was perfectly satisfied. (Cheers.) As to the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Lauder), there were occasions when he came forward, and there were occasionally times when he was cornered, and this was one of them. (Hear.) This was a question in which his constituency was deeply interested, and if he ventured to record his vote against the resolution, nothing could be more certain, if there was any doubt about it at all, than that he would be defeated at the next election in consequence. The hon. gentleman knew this, but if the Government persisted in their opposition, and a vote of want of confidence was proposed, the hon. gentleman would be found standing up and advocating for them, and saying that no better men could be found, and therefore the men who have opposed this point, which he declares so important, should be continued in their seats. (Hear.) With regard to an objection raised by the Government to the amendment, he thought it quite competent for the House to proceed at once with these resolutions, if the amendment were carried. The hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands had either misunderstood or misinterpreted the resolutions of the hon. member for South Bruce, in arguing that if it was carried they would be interfering with the interests of Quebec. The resolution was very carefully worded, and provided that the measure of relief accorded to settlers on common school lands should only be to the extent to which the Province of Ontario was interested. No reasonable man could object to that. The House was considering the position of a large number of settlers in the country, many of whom were in distress, and something must be done to relieve them and to keep them from leaving the country. If that was the principle with which they had to deal, it did not matter to them whether these people lived on Crown, or clergy, or school lands. (Hear.) If it was desirable to keep them, it made no difference what lands the people were settled upon, they had only to grant them relief, and prevent them, if possible by so doing, from leaving the country. There was another argument, if it could be argued, to the effect that they could not deal with the question, because the fund was a trust fund, which must be kept intact. He would agree that trust funds must be kept intact. But let them look at the other funds. The Government said that the House could deal with the Clergy Fund, Crown Land Fund, and Grammar School Fund, but whatever reduction was made upon these funds was just reducing the consolidated revenue of the Province to the extent of the reduction which was made. What difference, then, was there in withdrawing from the consolidated revenue an amount equivalent to the deductions which were made on school lands? (Hear.) The argument that there were no cases of hardship on these lands strengthened the position of the hon. member for South Bruce; but if there should be one case, only one instance in which an individual was in distress, it was their duty to deal with that case. (Hear, hear.) There was no desire to interfere with one single farthing that belonged to Lower Canada, with whom he desired to see the utmost good faith kept. He should rejoice to see a very large portion of the surplus set apart for school purposes. No better object could be aimed at than appropriating it to replace the school fund. He should second the resolution with pleasure, believing that a great injustice would be done to the people who had settled on these lands if the relief ac-

corded to other settlers was not extended to them. (Hear.)

Mr. T. FERGUSON defended the policy of the Government in respect to the resolutions they had brought forward. He said that if the amendments of the hon. member for South Bruce were passed, the resolutions of the Government would fall to the ground.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear. Mr. FERGUSON hoped that the amendment would be defeated; and then proceeded to make a personal attack on the hon. member for South Bruce, whom he blamed for being supported by THE GLOBE. Mr. Ferguson went on to avow his allegiance to the Government, and asserted that those who were the enemies of the Government were the enemies of the country. (Oh, oh.)

Mr. SWINARTON complained that three counties—Grey, Huron and Bruce—had occupied more attention this session than all the other counties put together. (A laugh.) He believed that the gentlemen opposite—Mr. Blake and Mr. McKellar—would do as well on the Government benches as its present occupants. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But if the three counties named were to occupy all the attention of the House, there was no more use in talking. (Laughter.)

At this stage, it being a few minutes to six o'clock, there were cries of "Question, question," "Call in the members." Ultimately,

Mr. LOUNT rose and said that he had failed to be convinced of the validity of the arguments used in support of the amendment made by the member for South Bruce. He argued that there had been no complaints from the occupants of the school lands, and that therefore they did not need relief.

It now being six o'clock, the House rose for recess.

After recess, Mr. LOUNT resumed his address, contending that the amendment of the hon. member for South Bruce would have the effect of destroying the resolutions introduced by the Government, which had been repeatedly asked for by the settlers interested. He looked upon the proposition to include the Common School Lands Fund among the other funds as illegal and unconstitutional for the lands could not be alienated. There was no immediate haste in the matter; and he had not heard any case made out for the relief of these settlers, while there were great difficulties in the way of affording relief. It seemed really monstrous that settlers who had the pick of the land of the Province should get relief; and there had been no call from the settlers themselves for this relief. There had been no petitions calling for it.

Mr. PERRY thought the question was of great interest to certain portions of the Province, and that if there existed any claims for relief on the part of settlers on any of these lands they should receive the attention of the House. The gentleman on the other side had said that there were some descriptions of land much better than others, and that the School lands were much better than the rest—a kind of Garden of Eden. Now the question was not a party one, but was whether the poor men living on the Common School lands should obtain relief. (Hear, hear.) It seemed to him that if the settlers on the Crown, Clergy and Grammar School lands should obtain relief, so also should those on the Common School lands.

Hon. Mr. WOOD asked what the hon. gentleman was going to do with those who had paid for their lands?

Mr. BLAKE—What is the Government going to do? (Hear, hear.) Mr. PERRY said that the Government had made no scruple as to the appropriation of the trust fund of the Clergy lands for the relief of the settlers. Why, then, should he make a distinction as to the fund of the Common Schools? (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Perry) was fully convinced of the usefulness and justice of the amendment of the hon. member for South Bruce, and would give it his hearty support. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOYD thought it would be in the recollection of the House that the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. Lount) in moving the reply to the Speech from the Throne two sessions ago, took occasion to applaud the course which he now condemned the Opposition for pursuing; and yet he now characterized the amendment which he dealt with the matter fairly, as monstrous. The amendment said that injustice would be done to the settlers on these Common School lands, if they were not treated on an equal footing with those on other lands. With regard to the argument of the hon. Treasurer that the amendment was equivalent to a vote of want of confidence, Mr. Boyd quoted Hansard to the contrary effect. The hon. Treasurer cracked the lash over his followers. (Hear, hear.) The hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, on the occasion of the debate to which he had referred, stated that the policy he now introduced was not one in the interest of the poor and industrious settler, but would foster idle, lazy settlers.

Mr. WOOD—That is as true as gospel. Mr. RICHARDS—I am of the same opinion still.

Mr. BOYD said it was not the first time a change had come over the spirit of the hon. Commissioner's dream. He dreamed once of the Mineral Land Fund, and appeared to have been dreaming for three years about this question. With regard to the argument as to the fund being a trust fund, and could not therefore be dealt with, it would have applied equally to the Clergy Reserve Fund; while the challenge thrown out by the hon. gentleman opposite, that it was not possible to produce a single case where hardship had been suffered by the settlers on the Common School lands, was met by the statement of the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Scott.) If the Government refused to deal with this matter at the present time, he believed that the time would quickly come when, if the present Government refused to acquiesce, some other Government would, and that equal justice would then be rendered to settlers on Common School lands to that which the Government now proposed to give to the settlers on other lands. (Hear.)

Mr. SINCLAIR said he represented a constituency in which there was a large quantity of school lands. Every hon. member must feel convinced that there were settlers on

of the Crown Lands Department consistently, since great differences would necessarily arise in the sale of lands. No course could be adopted to carry out the resolution that would not be likely to result in mischief. He would admit that there might be cases of hardship in the cases of the settlers on the common school lands; but they would not compare with the hardships which were inflicted upon settlers on the other lands.

Mr. LAUDER referred to the cases of townships of Osprey and Egremont, where the proposed resolutions would create diversity, and he would like to see the measure of relief made general.

Several Members—(Hear, hear, and laughter.) Mr. LAUDER said that hon. members might try "hear, hear," but he was there to represent his constituents, and not as the mere tool of any man. (Oh!) They used to get along very well together; but now, the Opposition, under the leadership of the hon. member for South Bruce, was getting weaker and weaker every day. The Globe had blown the hon. member up to the point at which he now stood, and it alone kept him there. It had published bogus letters from his (Lauder's) constituency, only to be refuted by others of much greater weight. Whole townships were deserting the hon. gentleman, and though he pretended to lead the great Reform party, the people would not follow him in his opposition to a Government which gave good measures, and was one of economy. He hoped the Government would next session extend the measure of relief to the settlers on common school lands. The question involved was merely one of book-keeping. (Hear, hear.) He thought the hon. member for Bruce had some other object in bringing forward the resolutions than the one he had stated; they were introduced to surprise members into voting against the interests of their constituencies; but he (Mr. Blake) would find that both himself (Lauder) and the member for North Grey (Mr. Scott) were not trammelled in the way that he was. He would vote in favour of affirming the principle that equal relief should be given to all.

Mr. MCKELLAR said the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Lauder) had followed the example set him by the members of the Government. The hon. gentleman had the fear of THE GLOBE before his eyes. (Hear.) The hon. Treasurer had expressed himself as very much dissatisfied with the manner in which that newspaper was managed, and also at the fact that it did not make his (Mr. McKellar's) name as prominent as it had of yore. He thanked the hon. gentleman for his sympathy, though he might tell him further that it was quite unnecessary for the hon. gentleman to interest himself so greatly in the matter, since he (Mr. McKellar) was perfectly satisfied. (Cheers.) As to the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Lauder), there were occasions when he came forward, and there were occasionally times when he was cornered, and this was one of them. (Hear.) This was a question in which his constituency was deeply interested, and if he ventured to record his vote against the resolution, nothing could be more certain, if there was any doubt about it at all, than that he would be defeated at the next election in consequence. The hon. gentleman knew this, but if the Government persisted in their opposition, and a vote of want of confidence was proposed, the hon. gentleman would be found standing up and advocating for them, and saying that no better men could be found, and therefore the men who have opposed this point, which he declares so important, should be continued in their seats. (Hear.) With regard to an objection raised by the Government to the amendment, he thought it quite competent for the House to proceed at once with these resolutions, if the amendment were carried. The hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands had either misunderstood or misinterpreted the resolutions of the hon. member for South Bruce, in arguing that if it was carried they would be interfering with the interests of Quebec. The resolution was very carefully worded, and provided that the measure of relief accorded to settlers on common school lands should only be to the extent to which the Province of Ontario was interested. No reasonable man could object to that. The House was considering the position of a large number of settlers in the country, many of whom were in distress, and something must be done to relieve them and to keep them from leaving the country. If that was the principle with which they had to deal, it did not matter to them whether these people lived on Crown, or clergy, or school lands. (Hear.) If it was desirable to keep them, it made no difference what lands the people were settled upon, they had only to grant them relief, and prevent them, if possible by so doing, from leaving the country. There was another argument, if it could be argued, to the effect that they could not deal with the question, because the fund was a trust fund, which must be kept intact. He would agree that trust funds must be kept intact. But let them look at the other funds. The Government said that the House could deal with the Clergy Fund, Crown Land Fund, and Grammar School Fund, but whatever reduction was made upon these funds was just reducing the consolidated revenue of the Province to the extent of the reduction which was made. What difference, then, was there in withdrawing from the consolidated revenue an amount equivalent to the deductions which were made on school lands? (Hear.) The argument that there were no cases of hardship on these lands strengthened the position of the hon. member for South Bruce; but if there should be one case, only one instance in which an individual was in distress, it was their duty to deal with that case. (Hear, hear.) There was no desire to interfere with one single farthing that belonged to Lower Canada, with whom he desired to see the utmost good faith kept. He should rejoice to see a very large portion of the surplus set apart for school purposes. No better object could be aimed at than appropriating it to replace the school fund. He should second the resolution with pleasure, believing that a great injustice would be done to the people who had settled on these lands if the relief ac-

corded to other settlers was not extended to them. (Hear.)

Mr. T. FERGUSON defended the policy of the Government in respect to the resolutions they had brought forward. He said that if the amendments of the hon. member for South Bruce were passed, the resolutions of the Government would fall to the ground.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear. Mr. FERGUSON hoped that the amendment would be defeated; and then proceeded to make a personal attack on the hon. member for South Bruce, whom he blamed for being supported by THE GLOBE. Mr. Ferguson went on to avow his allegiance to the Government, and asserted that those who were the enemies of the Government were the enemies of the country. (Oh, oh.)

Mr. SWINARTON complained that three counties—Grey, Huron and Bruce—had occupied more attention this session than all the other counties put together. (A laugh.) He believed that the gentlemen opposite—Mr. Blake and Mr. McKellar—would do as well on the Government benches as its present occupants. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But if the three counties named were to occupy all the attention of the House, there was no more use in talking. (Laughter.)

At this stage, it being a few minutes to six o'clock, there were cries of "Question, question," "Call in the members." Ultimately,

Mr. LOUNT rose and said that he had failed to be convinced of the validity of the arguments used in support of the amendment made by the member for South Bruce. He argued that there had been no complaints from the occupants of the school lands, and that therefore they did not need relief.

It now being six o'clock, the House rose for recess.

After recess, Mr. LOUNT resumed his address, contending that the amendment of the hon. member for South Bruce would have the effect of destroying the resolutions introduced by the Government, which had been repeatedly asked for by the settlers interested. He looked upon the proposition to include the Common School Lands Fund among the other funds as illegal and unconstitutional for the lands could not be alienated. There was no immediate haste in the matter; and he had not heard any case made out for the relief of these settlers, while there were great difficulties in the way of affording relief. It seemed really monstrous that settlers who had the pick of the land of the Province should get relief; and there had been no call from the settlers themselves for this relief. There had been no petitions calling for it.

Mr. PERRY thought the question was of great interest to certain portions of the Province, and that if there existed any claims for relief on the part of settlers on any of these lands they should receive the attention of the House. The gentleman on the other side had said that there were some descriptions of land much better than others, and that the School lands were much better than the rest—a kind of Garden of Eden. Now the question was not a party one, but was whether the poor men living on the Common School lands should obtain relief. (Hear, hear.) It seemed to him that if the settlers on the Crown, Clergy and Grammar School lands should obtain relief, so also should those on the Common School lands.

Hon. Mr. WOOD asked what the hon. gentleman was going to do with those who had paid for their lands?

Mr. BLAKE—What is the Government going to do? (Hear, hear.) Mr. PERRY said that the Government had made no scruple as to the appropriation of the trust fund of the Clergy lands for the relief of the settlers. Why, then, should he make a distinction as to the fund of the Common Schools? (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Perry) was fully convinced of the usefulness and justice of the amendment of the hon. member for South Bruce, and would give it his hearty support. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOYD thought it would be in the recollection of the House that the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. Lount) in moving the reply to the Speech from the Throne two sessions ago, took occasion to applaud the course which he now condemned the Opposition for pursuing; and yet he now characterized the amendment which he dealt with the matter fairly, as monstrous. The amendment said that injustice would be done to the settlers on these Common School lands, if they were not treated on an equal footing with those on other lands. With regard to the argument of the hon. Treasurer that the amendment was equivalent to a vote of want of confidence, Mr. Boyd quoted Hansard to the contrary effect. The hon. Treasurer cracked the lash over his followers. (Hear, hear.) The hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, on the occasion of the debate to which he had referred, stated that the policy he now introduced was not one in the interest of the poor and industrious settler, but would foster idle, lazy settlers.

Mr. WOOD—That is as true as gospel. Mr. RICHARDS—I am of the same opinion still.

Mr. BOYD said it was not the first time a change had come over the spirit of the hon. Commissioner's dream. He dreamed once of the Mineral Land Fund, and appeared to have been dreaming for three years about this question. With regard to the argument as to the fund being a trust fund, and could not therefore be dealt with, it would have applied equally to the Clergy Reserve Fund; while the challenge thrown out by the hon. gentleman opposite, that it was not possible to produce a single case where hardship had been suffered by the settlers on the Common School lands, was met by the statement of the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Scott.) If the Government refused to deal with this matter at the present time, he believed that the time would quickly come when, if the present Government refused to acquiesce, some other Government would, and that equal justice would then be rendered to settlers on Common School lands to that which the Government now proposed to give to the settlers on other lands. (Hear.)

Mr. SINCLAIR said he represented a constituency in which there was a large quantity of school lands. Every hon. member must feel convinced that there were settlers on