

some of the school lands who deserved to be relieved. With regard to one argument—that there had been no application from the settlers on the school lands—there was a reason for it. Some years ago the Government pressed for payment on the Crown lands, but not on the school lands. The Government gave the settlers on the school lands distinctly to understand that they were not going to deal with these lands, because they were trust lands. As to the argument of their being trust lands, he did not think it was valid. He was fully satisfied that the Treasurer had ability enough to keep this trust fund intact, and give relief out of the consolidated fund. The hon. member for South Grey had complained of the amendment of the hon. member for South Bruce—

Mr. LAUDER—I did not.

Mr. BLAKE—He objected to the member for South Bruce, and not to his resolution. (Laughter.)

Mr. SINCLAIR hoped that the House would see the wisdom of making some provision for the settlers on our school lands.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that the hon. member for South Bruce wanted the House, without any evidence of the necessity of the act, to furnish relief to the settlers on the school lands.

Mr. BLAKE—What do you say to the statements of the members for North and South Grey and North Bruce?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that two-thirds of the time of the House was occupied by Huron and North and South Bruce. The settlers of these counties had not been subjected to pressure.

Mr. BLAKE—How do you make that out?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that the Government, for the last three years, had not asked those settlers to pay—except by accident. (Laughter.) In the year 1850, one million was set aside for a school fund; the statute providing that it should not be touched.

Mr. BLAKE—Why did you interfere with these funds? (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that the hon. member for South Bruce was the first to attack the fund.

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said the fund was set apart for the instruction of the youth of Upper and Lower Canada. The Government might, at some time or another, when less careful of the finances, and more inclined to jobbery and corruption.—(Laughter.)

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—The Government might then think of meddling with the fund. This Government had already been asked by the Government of the Dominion if it could share the subsidy due to Ontario on the first of July and on the first of January. The time might come when the Dominion Government would not be able to pay Ontario its subsidy; the time might come when this Province might not be able to support its schools from its casual income. Let the fund remain untouched, and things might get along.

Mr. BLAKE—Do you not know that the income has already been taken out of the consolidated revenue?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he admitted that. But suppose the capital were reduced, it would be reduced in proportion as the settlers were relieved.

Mr. BLAKE—I don't propose to reduce the capital.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he protested against this mode of dealing with the matter. He would say this, however, to the member for South Bruce: would it not be better, before his resolution were adopted, to have a commission or committee of the House appointed to investigate the cases of settlers on the school lands? On the submitting of a report on this question there would be something tangible to proceed upon. There was now no evidence before the House.

Mr. BLAKE—There are the members for North and South Grey. Do you look on them with suspicion?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he looked with suspicion on all the Opposition. (Laughter.) He hoped the House would not accept the resolution of the hon. member for South Bruce.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH said he was willing to give the Government more power than they asked for. He was not afraid that they would make too great reductions. If these school lands were so valuable as the Government said they were, there would be no reductions required; and he could not understand why the Government should refuse the power to deal with them, and they could easily let the matter rest if they found it unnecessary. It looked invidious to leave out one class and deal with the others. He believed that the legal aspect of the case had been already departed from, and that to a greater extent than that now sought to be conferred upon the Government. It was proved that reductions had already taken place, and he could not see the illegality of making further reductions if required.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON claimed that the object of the introduction of the amendment was for the reason of placing the supporters of the Government whose constituencies were interested in Common School lands in a difficult position, having either to vote against the Government or against the supposed interests of their constituents. Such conduct was not worthy of the leader of the Opposition, and was not statesmanlike. It had been the practice of the Opposition to charge the Government with corruption; but the hon. members for North and South Grey, who were greatly interested in this question, were supporters of the Government, and yet the Government did not think it right to introduce any measure which was unconstitutional with a view of securing those constituencies. They could not reduce the price of the lands without violating the trust which the Province had undertaken, and the honourable gentleman must have known when he introduced his resolution that it could not be carried out. He submitted that no arrangement could be come to in the way proposed.

Mr. PARDEE said the Government had

only been charged with the corrupt reasons which induced them to place the provincial institutions in the localities selected. If the Government thought the amendment did not go far enough they could submit a proposal to carry it to the full extent; but they wished, because they could not do under the circumstances full justice, they should do none at all. He took it for granted that the hon. members whose constituencies were interested would vote upon the question according to their consciences, and not be influenced by the prospect of gaining a few votes. In reference to the award of the arbitration made by the hon. member for South Bruce, every speaker said that that reference was made with a view to Lower Canadian support; but it was forgotten that the hon. member for South Bruce had stated that he believed that Ontario had not got full justice, and that he considered it a finality.

Mr. BLAKE—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. PARDEE said that he believed the conduct of the Government was far more likely to cause a feeling of dissatisfaction in Quebec than anything that might have fallen from the hon. member for South Bruce. The hon. member for South Simcoe (Mr. Ferguson) had stated that for years past Lower Canada had received the lion's share, but he thought if this was so the hon. member himself was one of the chief to blame, for he had invariably supported the Governments who had perpetrated this alleged injustice. (Hear.) With regard to the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Lauder) he had expressed his regrets that the present leader of the Opposition had not patted him on the back in the manner in which the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. McKellar) had once done. He thought, however, that if the hon. member for Bothwell had continued as the leader of the Opposition, the hon. gentleman would have been weary of being patted on the back by him, and would have found out that the pats of the Government were much more acceptable. (Hear, and laughter.) The question should not be looked upon as a party one, nor from a sectional point of view. (Hear.)

Mr. HAYS said he usually supported the Government, but on the present occasion he should have to support the amendment since he believed that the relief should be extended to all classes of lands. In his constituency all classes were represented, and he thought it would be unfair to give relief to one and not the other. He would ask the hon. Commissioner whether he had any right to reduce the price of clergy lands?

Mr. RICHARDS said there was not.

Mr. HAYS asked if there was any case in which this remission had been made?

Mr. RICHARDS said he remembered one in Carleton County.

Mr. HAYS believed that others could be found if the Government looked. The chief trouble in his district was not so much to get relief from the price of the land as to get possession of it. (Hear.) The question should be looked at fairly, and the same benefit extended to all.

Mr. CALVIN would oppose the amendment proposed, because he did not think that the House had any right to deal with Quebec's money.

A division was then taken, with the following result:

YEAS.—Messrs. Baxter, Blake, Boyd, Christie, Clemens, Cook, Crosby, Evans, Finlayson, Fraser, Gow, Hays, Lauder, McKellar, McKim, McLeod, McMurrich, Oliver, Pardee, Paxton, Perry, Scott (Grey), Sexton, Smith (Middlesex), Springer, Trow, Williams (Hamilton).—27.

NAYS.—Messrs. Anderson, Barber, Beatty, Boulter, Cameron, Carnegie, Cockburn, Colquhoun, Carby, Craig (Glengary), Craig (Russell), Calvin, Cumberland, Currie, Code, Eyre, Ferguson, Ferrier, Fitzsimmons, Galbraith, Graham (Hastings), Graham (York), Hooper, Lount, Luton, Lyon, Murray, Macdonald, Matchett, Monteth, McCally (North), McColl (Elgin), McGill, Read, Richards, Rykert, Scott (Ottawa), Secord, Smith (Kent), Smith (Leeds and Grenville), Strange, Swinerton, Tett, Wallis, Wigle, Williams (Durham), Wilson, Wood.—48.

Mr. Sinclair paired for with Mr. Coyne against.

The House then went into Committee, with Mr. Lyon in the chair.

The first resolution was then read, and

Mr. RICHARDS moved the addition of the words Grammar Schools to the resolution, placing the whole question in the one resolution.

Mr. BLAKE referred to the difference between the mode in which the principal and interest were to be treated. The hon. Commissioner for Crown Lands stated that the abatement on the principal was to be guided by a principle, whereas that on the interest due was to be founded on no principle, but to be subject to the will of the Government alone. This mode of treating the question was likely to cause discontent in both classes—those who desired the reduction, and those old settlers who desired to see the reduction as small as possible, since it would divert revenues from the Consolidated Revenue, and thus affect the taxation of the country. He hoped the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands would see a way to dealing with the question of interest in the same manner in which the question of principal was treated. He thought some further explanations were required in this matter. He would call their attention to the importance of the interests involved, and that the amount of interest involved was equally as great to that of the principal. (Hear.)

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said that with regard to the principal it might be dealt with without much difficulty. As to the interest, there would be taken into consideration the difference between good and bad lands.

Mr. BLAKE said that in case of a poor lot, if the lot at the end of twenty years was not worth more than the original dollar per acre, without interest, it was quite clear that the land was not worth a dollar an acre when it was purchased. The real question was—what was the true value of the land to the settler? The right course to pursue was, to reduce the principle to such a point as that the settler should pay the reduced principal, and the interest on the reduced principal. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said the Government would just act as they pleased. The hon. member for South Bruce had spent three years in abusing the Government.

Mr. BLAKE—You spent nineteen years in doing the same thing. (Laughter.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that the hon. member for South Bruce might as well give up advising the Government; for the Government would pursue their own course. He proceeded in his usual vein to congratulate himself and abuse the Opposition.

Mr. BOYD reminded the Attorney-General that on more than one occasion he had taken the opinion of Mr. Blake. There were three measures in which it would have been well for the Government to have taken the opinion of Mr. Blake and the Opposition.

Mr. BLAKE, in a calm and dignified manner, replied to the diatribe of the Attorney-General, taunting him with his presumption, and want of originality in his terms of abuse.

The first resolution was passed.

Mr. BLAKE asked the Government if they intended to have a report prepared on the nature of the lands on which the reductions were proposed to be made.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS was understood to reply in the negative.

Mr. BLAKE said he would move an amendment to that effect before concurrence was taken.

The Committee passed the second resolution, then rose and reported progress.

The House rose at 10:25.

## NOTICES OF MOTION.

Dr. Boulter—Resolutions—(1) That, in the opinion of the House, it is just that the original settlers in the townships since declared free grant territory, should receive patents for the lands upon which they have squatted, upon as liberal terms as those who have located upon land under the free grant Act of Ontario.

(2) That locattees holding mill sites in such territories should be compelled to build such mills as may have been agreed upon, within a certain time, or forfeit their claims to such mill sites.

Mr. Blake—An address for copies of reports of any persons who have inspected or valued any of the unpatented lands in Ontario under the directions of Government.

Mr. Hay—To introduce a Bill, entitled "An Act to amend an Act respecting the Courts of Error and Appeal."

Mr. Blake—An address representing that during the last session of this House an address was voted to His Excellency praying for certain information touching the Municipal Loan Fund, including a statement of the principal and interest paid by each municipality; and further representing that during this session a return was made to the said address, which is incomplete, inasmuch as it does not contain any statement of the amount of interest paid by such municipalities as have no sums to the credit of the Sinking Fund, and praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before the House, with all convenient speed, a further statement in reply to the said address.