

4 completing the same; Mr. Boulter in the chair.

On the clause respecting the exemption of the railway from municipal taxation, some discussion ensued, and

Mr. SINCLAIR moved an amendment restricting the right of a county council to exempt only for one year at a time.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said if the promoter of the Bill desired to have this clause in the Bill amended, he had no objection to it; but he wished it distinctly understood that it should not be considered that the principle was adopted.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Hamilton) said he wished to see the clause carried as it stood.

Mr. Sinclair's amendment was lost, and on the original clause being put, it was struck out.

On clause 17, respecting the extension of the railway to Kincardine,

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that he should move at a future stage to have this clause struck out.

On the clause respecting the change of gauge)

Mr. BLAKE asked for an explanation from the promoter of the Bill. It had been urged to the people of Bruce that the broad gauge would afford connections with the Great Western and Grand Trunk, but now it was proposed to take power to alter the gauge to 4 ft. 8½ inches.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Hamilton)—Things have changed since then. (Laughter)

Mr. BLAKE thought the only change that had taken place was that the company had got the bonus. (Laughter.) The promoter of the Bill should remember that the change would deprive the road of connection with Toronto, which of course its promoters very much desired. (A laugh)

Mr. WILLIAMS said that the change was rendered advisable in consequence of the change of gauge on the Great Western Railway. Out of fifty or sixty cars, but one or two went to Toronto.

Mr. FERGUSON thought the promoters of the Bill had obtained money under false pretences.

The clause was carried.

On the sectional clauses,

Mr. BLAKE gave notice that at a further stage of the Bill he would move to throw out the sectional clauses.

The clause respecting the giving of power to the County Council to extend the time for completing the railway having been read,

Mr. BLAKE said he hoped this clause would be allowed to stand over, as it was one of the most objectionable clauses of the Bill.

The clause stood over for the present.

The committee rose and reported the Bill with amendments.

SUGAR REFINERY, TORONTO.

Mr. WALLIS moved the House into committee—Mr. Sinclair in the chair—to amend 33 Vic., Cap. 71, intituled "An Act to exempt from municipal taxation, for a certain period, a sugar refinery proposed to be erected in the city of Toronto.

Mr. FERGUSON opposed the Bill on the ground that it was a wrong principle to make exemptions.

Mr. McDUGALL said that an exemption of this kind was taking money out of the city treasury.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that the exemption was asked for on account of an arrangement that had been entered into between Mr. Heliwell and the Corporation.

The committee rose and reported the Bill with some verbal amendments. Third reading to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON moved the adjournment of the House.

The House rose at 11.25.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The committee met at half-past 9 o'clock yesterday morning.

There were present Mr. Cumberland, (Chairman), Hon. Mr. Wood, Hon. Mr. McMurrich, Mr. Blake, Mr. McLeod, Mr. McDougall, Mr. Carnegie, Mr. Smith (Leeds), and Mr. Beatty.

On the minutes of the last meeting being read, a conversation arose as to the minute of \$105,000 for the residence of the Lieut.-Governor.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the sale of the material of the old building realized \$1,285; this sum he had credited to the current revenue. In this case, the Lieut.-Governor's residence really cost \$103,715.

Mr. McDUGALL and Mr. BLAKE opposed this view of the matter, and maintained that the building really cost \$105,000. The matter then dropped, and the minutes were confirmed.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE.

Mr. EDWARDS (Public Works Department) submitted the plan for the laying out of the grounds surrounding the Lieut.-Governor's residence. It had been prepared by Mr. Laing, but he had been since discharged. The estimate made by Mr. Laing was \$1,725; the cost rose to \$4,000, when he was discharged. The grounds altogether cost about \$6,000.

The reduced estimates for the building were submitted to the committee.

Mr. BLAKE said he saw that there had been a reduction on the stables of \$4,000. The items of furniture, carpets, mirrors, gas-fittings, papering and decorations were put down in the original estimates at \$32,500; in the reduced estimates, at \$16,733. He wanted to know to what these reduced estimates led—whether there had been a saving in some items and excess in others. It seemed that there had been excess, and this required explanation.

The CHAIRMAN directed Mr. Edwards to prepare a comparison of the items in the original and reduced estimates, so that the difference might be made apparent.

POSTAGES AND TELEGRAMS.

There was submitted to the committee a statement from each of the Departments.

showing the manner in which they managed their postal and telegraphic business.

The documents were read to the committee.

Mr. BLAKE asked how it was that postages were charged on sessional papers. He thought that they were to go free; they were not worth anything, and it was too bad to have to pay postage on them.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he understood that these papers should go free. But he would inquire of the Clerk of the Legislature as to the matter.

The subject then dropped.

EXAMINATION OF MR. CAYLEY.

The committee having expressed a desire that Mr. Cayley should be examined, he was accordingly summoned.

The CHAIRMAN explained to him that the committee wished to have an explanation as to the system of keeping the public accounts.

Mr. CAYLEY said it was his business to keep a supervision over the public money. There was an appropriation book in which the payments of the public money were recorded. The book was headed with the various sums voted by parliament for the public service. When an application was sent up from the Treasury Department, it had previously to go through the Credit department below; it was then compared with the appropriation book, to see if there were an appropriation for that service, and to see whether or not the appropriation were exhausted. The application was then endorsed by him. The application was then forwarded by the department below to the Executive Council; and then the council acted on it. If the issue of the warrant were sanctioned, the issue of the award was made out in the clerk's office of the Executive Council and returned with the application to the Treasury Department. The cheque was then made out in the Treasury Department, by Mr. Harris, in conformity with the warrant; he (Mr. Cayley) then signed the cheque and warrant; he then compared them to see if they agreed, and countersigned the cheque and initialed the warrant. Both warrant and cheque were then entered in the books of his Department, and then returned to the accountant below. The cheque was then passed to the party in whose favour it was drawn, and the warrant filed away. To carry out these services the books kept in his department were, the appropriation book, the record of cheques, the record of warrants, the journal, and ledger. His next duty in connection with his office was to go over the accountant's books at the end of each month, to see that all the transactions entered in these books are correctly recorded. He had to examine the books in Mr. Harris' department; he added up the cash book, and if correct initialed it; this book was always correct. He had also, conjointly with Mr. Matthews, to take charge of the law-stamp banking account. Each of them had two keys for opening the one safe, and issued from time to time from the bank a quantity of law-stamps which the law-stamp issuer, Mr. Ross, called for by requisition. It was necessary in order to open the safe, that he and Mr. Matthews should both be present with their keys at the same time. From time to time he compared the issues made by Mr. Ross with the balance of stamps Mr. Ross had on hand. This stock, by instruction from Hon. Mr. Wood, was to be taken weekly. All amounts payable for the issue of stamps were transferred by cheque or certificate of deposit enclosed to Mr. Ross, but payable to the order of the Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. WOOD here observed that it was impossible that the Province should lose by forgery in the matter of these stamps; for the banks had instructions to honour no drafts except they were endorsed in a peculiar way, and to the order of the Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH said that the precautions seemed to him to be quite ample.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that every month, as regarded stamps, there was a stock taken in the bank. The bank was debited with all the stock received from the printer.

Mr. CAYLEY resumed. From time to time he had to look over the work of Mr. Notman, the Queen's Printer, and to see that the arrangements made with Hunter & Rose for printing the *Official Gazette* were properly carried out, and the amount collected by Hunter & Rose on commission duly accounted for into the treasury. Hunter & Rose made collections under the present system.

Hon. Mr. WOOD asked if Mr. Notman received any moneys?

Mr. CAYLEY said he received money for the statutes, but not for the *Gazette*. Hunter & Rose received the money for advertisements, and made the payments to the Treasury. The system was changed about the 1st of Nov., 1869, in consequence of serious arrears into which Mr. Hartney, the Queen's Printer, had fallen. Having been called upon by the Government to look into Mr. Hartney's accounts, he (Mr. Cayley) was weekly getting more and more into arrears. He then suggested to the Government that he should be allowed to make arrangements with Hunter & Rose for the collection of accounts payable to the *Gazette*. The suggestion was approved of, and the commission on collections fixed at 4 per cent.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH—Is there any responsibility in regard to outstanding debts?

Mr. CAYLEY said that hitherto Hunter & Rose had only declared a deficiency of \$30, and this they had been unable to collect. It was expected that all parties advertising should pay the amount payable on seeing the advertisement in the *Gazette*. There was an exception in the case of the County Treasurers' advertising land sales: they got three months' credit.

It now being eleven o'clock, the committee rose, and the examination of Mr. Cayley was consequently postponed.

PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE.

THE TORONTO UNION PASSENGER STATION.

At the meeting of the standing committee on Private Bills, yesterday morning, the Bill to incorporate the Toronto Union Passenger Station and Dock Company came up for consideration. Attorney-General Macdonald was in the chair, and Mr. S. B. Harman

represented the company, the Bill being introduced by and under the care of Hon. Mr. Cameron.

The preamble of the Bill having been carried, the various clauses down to the sixteenth were carried with verbal amendments. On the 16th clause, which gives the company similar powers to acquire lands as are conveyed in the several clauses of the Railway Act 1868, with respect to lands and their valuations, some discussion arose.

The CHAIRMAN said he was entirely opposed to giving power to a corporation to compel private individuals to sell their property, whether they wished to or not.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said it had been a question in his mind whether this Bill ought not properly to have come up before the railway committee. If it had come before that committee, the powers now sought would no doubt have been at once conferred. He contended that this company was as much a public one, and calculated as much to advance general interests, as a railway company. The railway company had the option of acquiring those lands, and it could not be any great injustice to grant to this company a similar right. The parties who had lands to dispose of would not object, for the reason that this scheme would increase the value of their property. If the clause, however, was not adopted, a single owner of property might, by demanding extravagant prices for his land, prevent a great public improvement being carried into effect.

The CHAIRMAN said if the railway companies had the power they might obtain the lands required, and then dispose of them to this company. There was a great distinction between a railway company and the company seeking a charter under this Bill. The one conferred a public benefit—this was only for the profit of a few individuals.

Mr. CUMBERLAND stated that the powers spoken of as being vested in the railway companies had lapsed on account of time. It was a feeling of mutual jealousy among the various railway companies which had prevented the present scheme from being carried out some time ago.

Mr. HARMAN exhibited a plan of the proposed station, and contended that its erection would confer a great boon on the city. It was of all public improvements the most generally desired, the accomplishment of which had only been prevented by want of joint action on the part of the three rival companies—Grand Trunk Railway, Great Western Railway and Northern Railway. The Company proposed to erect the station and appurtenances, and lease it out in parts to the respective railway companies. This would obviate the fear, which would be felt under other circumstances, that one of the companies might exert its influence to obtain the control of the whole station, and thereby injuriously affect the traffic of the other lines.

Mr. COYNE thought the clause might well be passed without inflicting any injury upon any person.

After some further discussion the clause was allowed to stand over, and will come up for discussion at a special meeting of the committee to-day at eleven o'clock.

The other clauses were agreed to, and the committee then rose.