

selves of the benefits offered by Joint Stock Insurance Companies require that some provision be made, whereby, in the event of the insolvency of such companies, insurers may be, to some extent, protected.

2 That with a view of affording such protection, it is highly desirable that such companies make a cash deposit with the Provincial Treasurer, to be by him invested in Dominion or Provincial securities and held in trust for such companies.

Carried.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS, U. C.

Mr. RYKERT moved the House into committee—Mr. Ferrier in the chair—on the Bill to amend the Act respecting Municipal Institutions in Upper Canada.

The committee rose and reported the Bill with amendments.

Mr. LOUNT suggested that as the Bill was an important one, and amendments had been made to it, the Bill should be reprinted.

Mr. RYKERT said it was unnecessary. A conversation arose on the point, but the matter was left undecided.

CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE BY MARRIED WOMEN.

Mr. LYON moved the House into Committee on the Bill to amend Chapter 85 of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada, intitled "An Act respecting the conveyance of Real Estate by Married Women," and the Act passed in the thirty-second year of the reign of Her Majesty, chaptered 9, intitled "An Act to amend the Registry Act, and to further provide as to the certificates of married women, touching their consent as to the execution of deeds of conveyance."

Mr. LOUNT said that there was at present a law in force for the purpose of preventing any coercion or undue influence of husbands over wives, in the matter of the transfer of real estate. This Bill was introduced, it was said, for the purpose of rendering the present law more effective. He objected to some of its provisions, and quoted from a letter from Judge Armstrong of Ottawa. He moved the three months' hoist.

Mr. LYON defended the provisions of the Bill, which was required. There had been some amendments made in the Bill in the Select Committee.

Mr. BLAKE said the Bill embraced several points, some of them admittedly useful. It did not appear to him that the Bill should be thrown out; it would be much better to let it go to the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said, if the testimony of married women were to be taken, as the Bill proposed, by notaries public, it would be useless. The person to take the evidence should occupy the position of a judge of the Common Court or a responsible person appointed by the Government. If the examination were conducted before notaries or magistrates, there would be no means of identification, such as there would be in case the examination were held before a judge or officer appointed by the Government.

The motion for the three months' hoist was then withdrawn, and the House went into committee on the Bill—Mr. Sexton in the chair.

Mr. LOUNT proposed an amendment to the effect that when necessary the Lieutenant-Governor should appoint a commissioner of deeds to take these examinations—the commissioner to be an Ontario barrister of five years' standing.

A discussion arose, and, finally, the amendment was put and lost, only two members voting in its favour—Messrs Lount and Strange.

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

ASSESSMENT LAW.

The House went into committee on Bill to amend the Act respecting the municipal institutions of Upper Canada. Mr. Cook in the chair.

Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5 were struck out, and amid great confusion, a motion was made that the committee rise.

This elicited a warm and excited discussion, several members claiming the floor at the same time. Eventually, the question was put, and decided in the affirmative. The announcement of the result was the signal for great uproar.

PROTECTION OF GAME.

Mr. TROW moved the House into Committee, Mr. Murray in the chair, on the Bill to amend the Act passed in the thirty-first year of the reign of Her Majesty, and chaptered twelve, intitled "An Act for the better protection of game in the Province of Ontario."

Some discussion took place on the provision fixing the date after which deer might be killed at the 20th December.

The clause was adopted after some consideration.

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

RETURNS.

After recess,

Hon. Mr. CAMERON laid on the table a return relating to changes in the boundaries of the free grant lands; also a return relating to contracts under the Drainage Act.

INCORPORATION OF WALKERTON.

Mr. BLAKE moved the Bill to incorporate the town of Walkerton back to Committee of the Whole to alter the name of one of the wards, and to provide that for the first election the qualification of members of the Council be the same as that in township elections.

The House went into committee (Mr. Rykert in the chair), adopted these amendments, and reported the Bill.

RELIEF TO THE OTTAWA SUFFERERS.

Mr. LYON asked whether the Government intended to pay over the \$25,000 to the sufferers by the Ottawa fires, and, if so, when?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said the Government was prepared to pay over the money to the chairman of the Relief Committee at any time.

TORONTO, GREY & BRUCE RAILWAY.

Mr. BLAKE moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company. The Railway Committee had, in accordance with the instructions of the House, reported the preamble proven, but they added a proviso, making the Act operative for five years. This proviso would render the Bill of no effect, and that was the intention with which it was passed. He moved the Bill to the second reading, with the hope of striking out that proviso in Com-

mittee. It was understood that in voting upon the second reading the House would decide upon the grouping principle. He would not add anything to the observations he had made on several occasions with reference to the adoption of that principle. His views as to the impropriety of it remained unchanged. He regretted that in taking this course he was obliged to differ from those with whom he usually acted.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH said large sums of money had been invested in this company by the city of Toronto and by private citizens, and the passage of this Bill would very greatly decrease the value of this investment. Every township asked to contribute to this bonus would receive benefit from the road. There might be something hard in the case of the township of Carrick, but nothing to justify the proposed action; and nothing so hard as was the case of the four townships which would be deprived of railway accommodation, and which had also been compelled to contribute to the county bonus. He did not see any very great hardship in compelling the only township which was standing out to enter into the arrangement. He would therefore move the three months' hoist. This would test the sense of the House as to whether a Bill should pass which would have the effect of stopping the road at Mount Forest. Some \$22,000 to \$25,000 had been taken up on account of the clause in the original Bill which it was proposed to strike out by the Bill before the House.

Mr. RYKERT said he was entirely opposed to the grouping principle, and did not think that they should make any exception in this case to the deliberate action of the House with regard to other Bills. He would support the Bill, not so much in the interest of the township of Carrick, as in that of the whole Province.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said there must necessarily be inequalities in the benefit derived by various townships from railways. The general principle of grouping was recognized by the existing law on arbitrarily grouping townships into counties, and the same principle applied to grouping of townships for the purpose of giving aid to railways. He supported the amendment, contending that the township of Carrick had no right to come to the House and ask to be relieved from obligations, owing to the existence of which the county had entered into contracts. The principle of grouping might be declared to be wrong, but in the case before them there were exceptional circumstances.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON referred to the legislation of last session on this matter, and contended that the grouping clauses were then adopted by the House. During the present session the hon. member for South Bruce had introduced a Bill to exempt the township of Carrick from its operation, although he had expressed himself as being satisfied that the ruling of the House in the case of the Haliburton Railway settled the question. The previous legislation of the House should not be interfered with, unless it was shown that the company had not fulfilled the engagements into which it had entered. He supported the grouping principle, for he could not see that greater injustice would be done by it as applied to townships than was done by allowing counties to give bonuses.

Mr. ANDERSON said he should support the amendment.

Mr. McKELLAR said that there was no injustice done in compelling Carrick to fulfil the obligation into which it had entered.

Mr. Hays and Mr. Secord supported the amendment, which was opposed by Mr. McDougall and Mr. Scott (Grey.)

Mr. BLAKE said that no notice had been given to the townships of the legislation of last session respecting this company, and yet it was now held that, in consequence of that legislation, the company had acquired vested rights, which should not now be disturbed.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD contended that Carrick had sufficient notice, and the attempt to make it appear otherwise was a censure upon the House for passing the measure last session.

The vote was then taken on the amendment, which was carried—Yeas, 87; nays, 16.

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Barber, Boulter, Calvin, Cameron, Carling (Huron), Carling (London), Carnegie, Cockburn, Corby, Coyne, Craig (Glengary), Crosby, Evans, Ferguson, Graham (Hastings), Hays, Hooper, Luten, Lyon, Macdonald, Macdougall, McKellar, McMurrich, Murray, Paxton, Read, Richards, Secord, Smith (Kent), Smith (Leeds and Grenville), Strange, Springer, Wallis, Williams (Hamilton), Wilson, Wood—37.

NAYS—Messrs. Beatty, Blake, Clemens, Craig (Russell), Currie, Ferrier, Finlayson, Fitzsimmons, Galbraith, Gow, McCall (Norfolk), McDougall, McKim, Rykert, Scott (Ottawa), Sinclair—16.

PEMBROKE AND OTTAWA RAILWAY.

Mr. MURRAY moved the third reading of the Bill to incorporate the Pembroke and Ottawa Railway Company.

Mr. McDUGALL moved in amendment to refer the Bill back to committee to strike out the sectional bonus clause.

The amendment was lost. Yeas, 17; nays, 35.

YEAS—Messrs. Beatty, Blake, Clemens, Craig (Russell), Currie, Ferrier, Finlayson, Fitzsimmons, Galbraith, Gow, McCall (Norfolk), McDougall, McKim, Rykert, Scott (Ottawa), Sinclair—17.

NAYS—Messrs. Anderson, Barber, Boulter, Calvin, Cameron, Carling (London), Carling (Huron), Carnegie, Cockburn, Corby, Coyne, Craig (Glengary), Crosby, Evans, Ferguson, Graham (Hastings), Hays, Hooper, Luten, Lyon, Macdonald, McKellar, Murray, Paxton, Read, Richards, Secord, Smith (Kent), Smith (Leeds and Grenville), Strange, Springer, Wallis, Williams (Hamilton), Wilson, Wood—35.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

MERRICKVILLE AND WESTPORT RAILWAY.

Mr. SMITH moved the third reading of the Bill to incorporate the Merrickville and Westport Railway Company.

Mr. BLAKE said he had given notice of a motion to strike out the sectional bonus clause, but as the House had already decided in favour of the principle of such a clause he would not offer his motion.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

HAMILTON AND LAKE ERIE RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Hamilton) moved third reading of Bill incorporating the Hamilton and Lake Erie Railway Company. Carried.

BRACKVILLE AND WESTPORT RAILWAY COMPANY.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8th.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3:15.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

Mr. ANDERSON presented the report of the special committee to which was referred the Bill to prevent corrupt practices at Municipal elections.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD presented the eighteenth report of the committee on Private Bills; also the report of the Printing Committee.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. McCALL (Norfolk) introduced a Bill to abolish dual representation; also a Bill respecting the property qualification of members of the House.

ONTARIO STATUTES.

Mr. SPRINGER asked whether the Government intend hereafter to furnish Municipal Councils and their officers with the Ontario statutes free of charge.

Atty.-General MACDONALD said it was not the intention of the Government to do so.

UNPATENTED LANDS OF ONTARIO.

Mr. BLAKE moved address for return of reports relative to unpatented lands.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said that there had only been one person appointed under the regulations, who had made some investigations with reference to some clergy reserve lands in the county of Perth. The information thus obtained had not been acted upon, and was of a character which it would not be for the advantage of public interest to make public.

Mr. BLAKE said the hon. member for Perth (Mr. Monteith) had referred to the report from his seat in the House, and had expressed himself as satisfied with the report. It was very extraordinary that the hon. member should have seen a confidential report which it was declared it would not be for the public interest to make public. It was important to know what position the hon. member occupied that rendered it fit for him to see a report which it was not fit for other members to see.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said if the hon. member for Perth had seen the report it was without his (the Commissioner's) knowledge. The hon. member might have seen the report in the office. The lands in question, it was stated, had been sold at high prices, and the investigation was to see if this was so.

Mr. MONTEITH explained that he had gone to the Commissioner's office and asked to see the report, which was handed to him by a clerk. The hon. Commissioner was not aware that he had seen the report. He might state that if carried out it would prove satisfactory. He believed the reduction in the price of lands would affect at least one half of those referred to.

Mr. BLAKE would suggest to hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches the advisability of having a place where confidential reports could be stored, so that errors of this kind should not be repeated. It was, at least, desirable that hon. members who supported the Government should not be placed in a better position with regard to such documents than other hon. gentlemen who occupied seats on the other side of the House. Of course, if the document was handed to the hon. member and he was not informed that it was of a private nature, he was quite justified in perusing it. The motion was then withdrawn.

RAILWAYS AND GRAVEL ROADS.

Mr. RYKERT said that after the expression of the views of the House last night, and the promise made from the Treasury benches to deal with this matter, he thought it well to withdraw his motion respecting aid to railways and gravel roads.

JOINT STOCK INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Mr. BOYD moved that this House will, on Friday next resolve itself into committee of the whole to consider the following resolutions:—

1 That the interests of those who avail them-