

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. DEROCHE in moving the resolutions in reply to the address from the Throne, asked the indulgence of the House on that his first appearance. He had a difficult duty to perform, and he had to perform it in the presence of men whose names were a household word throughout the country. He considered that the address proved that the policy of the Government would be in the future as it had been in the past, one commanding the confidence of the people of this Province. Then taking the resolutions, clause by clause, the hon. gentleman, in reference to the question of the arbitration between the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, said it would be premature to make many remarks on that subject, as the award had been repudiated, and the question remained an open one; he preferred to leave that question in the hands of the hon. gentleman who was well qualified to deal with it. On the education question, which was the most important to the general welfare of the people, the legislation proposed was of a character to meet with the approval of all; and of the legislation which had taken place during the last four years, he would say that the people had great cause for thankfulness. Having had practical experience of the duties of a teacher he had had brought before him the fact that the means available for the training of teachers were insufficient, and he knew the result had been that many of the teachers had been inefficient. However, under the late legislation great improvements had been effected, and it might be that the Government would find it necessary to establish other schools of instruction similar to that now existing at Toronto. He believed such an Act would be supported by the general feeling of the country. With regard to the contemplated School of Technology, he considered that such a school was very greatly needed, especially for the purpose of supplying to the engineers employed on the railroads and steamboats that practical education which would enable them to fulfil their duties in a proper manner. The subject of immigration was one he considered more in the hands of the Dominion Government than in those of the Ontario Legislature, yet the latter had done something for the cause of immigration and he believed would do more. If ever this Province was to become great, and fulfil its real destiny it could only be by a great increase to its population. He believed the Government of this Province was prepared to aid the Dominion authorities in promoting this desirable end. Of the proposal to establish a School of Agriculture he said that such an establishment would be of the greatest value to the farmers of the country, and believed it would be a popular measure. The next clause referring to the aid proposed to be given for the purpose of draining the swamps he characterized as a measure of great utility. So much land was now lying useless which might by a slight outlay be rendered most valuable, that this proposal could not fail to be productive of great good. While the method of applying the money to that purpose was to a certain extent novel, the idea itself was not new. In one township with which he was acquainted not less than 20,000 acres of land had been thus enabled to be brought under cultivation. The clauses relating to the state of the courts of law and equity, and the payment of witnesses in criminal cases dealt with matters on which legislation was greatly needed. Passing by the clause relating to financial questions, and that expressing the trust that the Divine blessing might rest upon their labors, the hon. gentleman concluded by expressing his conviction that the present Government would bring forward measures that would meet with the approval of the House and of the country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD in seconding the resolutions, said he regretted he could not do justice to the subject, but relied with confidence on the kind reception always given to a new member. Little was left for him to say after the able and exhaustive speech they had just listened to. On the question of the award between the Provinces he was sure that every gentleman in the House would join in the expression of regret that that question had not been finally settled, and that owing to the course taken by the Quebec Legislature it should still remain an open question. It was to be hoped that the steps taken to set aside the award would prove futile. With regard to the subject of the public schools he considered that the legislation which had come into force since the last meeting of that House had been most successful. While still capable of improvement, he considered he was speaking the opinion of those connected with education when he said that it had been a boon to all connected with it. The standard of teachers had been raised, and the general education of the country had also advanced. None would question the necessity of providing still more training schools for teachers, and he believed that the Government had made arrangements for securing a building for that purpose. On the immigration question he believed the Government would do all in its power to bring across the seas a class of settlers suitable for this country. On the drainage question the action of the Government had been wise and would prove advantageous. The thing to be chiefly regarded was to take care to employ such checks as should render it impossible for any imposition to be practised on the Government or its officials. On the questions connected with the courts and the payment of witnesses, he acquiesced with the views expressed by his hon. friend, and he considered that the example set them in this respect by the British Government would have due weight. The financial question he was confident would meet with that attention from the House which it deserved. The hon. gentleman concluded by expressing his approval of the action of the Government in setting apart a day of public thanksgiving.

Mr. BLAKE congratulated the hon. gentleman who had just spoken on the manner in which they had carried out a

bad job; but the matter of which they spoke was not as good as the manner in which they had addressed themselves to the task. During the last Parliament, the Opposition, a brave but small band, had done their best to give a proper course to the legislation of the country. This Parliament the appearance of things had changed. Last year the Government claimed that they had a majority of fifty-five. This year only thirty members were returned to support the Government. The Attorney-General had asked several gentlemen connected with the Opposition whether June, July or August would be most suitable for the issue of the writs for a new general election, but he had abused his power as Attorney-General, and had advised the issue of the writs unexpectedly, and had certainly obtained a certain advantage therefrom, but not enough for his purpose for he knew that he did not possess control of the chamber. (Opposition cheers.) He had also used Government officials for election purposes and he (Blake) called upon the member for Essex (Prince) to confirm this statement. The Government had also called the settlers in Proton and other townships, who were anxious to have the price of their lands reduced, into voting for Mr. Lauder, by saying that it would be inexpedient for them to return an opponent to the government. He would hereafter allude to the improper use made of the railway aid fund. He then alluded to the government being a borough administration. The Secretary represented the bankrupt borough of Niagara, which was in the hands of any Government. The Attorney-General also represented the next small borough of Cornwall, which he apparently found easy to keep. The Treasurer owed his return to the burrough of Brantford with its Grand Trunk votes. The Commissioners of Crown Lands and Public Works, also represented nothing but burroughs. What else but the knowledge of these facts took the Secretary to Oxford to be spewed out of his mouth. Hon. members like him (Blake,) were more likely to properly represent the wants of the country. The policy of the Government under the late Commissioner, (Richards,) had been narrow, contracted blundering and hair-splitting. He was sure that the House would readily pass a vote expressive of the thanks of the country, not so much at the elevation of the Secretary to the Commissionership of Crown Lands, but the depression of the Commissioner to the Secretaryship, where it was not of much importance whether he ever made up his mind or not. The Government had all along been kept up by the Government at Ottawa. He said that the representation of Manitoba by four members, and of British Columbia by six members, was a breach of the constitution; neither of these Provinces had a population of one-fourth that of Huron, which had 49,000 voters. Where was the old principle of representation by population, for which Reformers had so long fought? He then referred to the Scott case and the non-issue of the warrants for the arrest of his murderers, and the fact of Governor Archibald shaking hands with Riel. Why was there no reference to all these facts in the speech? In reference to the establishment of the Technological College he said a Bill should have been brought down to arrange the conduct thereof. The school Bill had not given the satisfaction which the address had claimed for it. He was not prepared to pronounce upon the proposal to establish mere public schools. Only twelve per cent of the teachers who had passed through the Normal School were now teaching. This required explanation. He did not favor the proposal to pay witnesses in criminal cases. As to the proposed aid to tile draining, he said that the particulars should be given before he expressed his opinion. The programme laid out was a very meagre one, and violated the promises made last Session by the Ministry as to bringing down measures for the disposal of the surplus. True it was that the settling of the award was an excuse for the non-fulfilment of these promises, but he did not think that the refusal of the Dominion Government to decide upon the award should delay these necessary measures, which were of the highest importance to the future prosperity of the country. He did not think the Dominion Government had the power to decide upon the legality of the award. While this House was sitting last year the protests of the Quebec Government and Legislature made the public fully aware of their intention to oppose the award of arbitrators. The Attorney-General himself, at the opening of last Session, said that the Quebec people could not upset the award without an appeal to the Privy Council. Why then should they now bring this phase of the award up as a reason for delaying the disposal of the surplus? They knew when they promised a scheme for its disposal all that they now know. They did not tell the electors at the hustings that these matters were not about to be dealt with at this Session. The hon. Treasurer said at a banquet in June that the Municipal Loan Fund would be dealt with at this session. The Government did not at the commencement of this debate propose to deal with the question, no matter what their intentions might be now. He did not see why the delay of the settlement of this award question should prevent the carrying out of all the schemes which had been proposed in relation to the Municipal Loan Fund. The only object which the hon. gentlemen opposite had in view seemed to be to roll up a large surplus for use at elections, and for Quebec to grab at in case of an adverse decision. Hon. gentlemen opposite were too weak in ability, too much wanting in political manfulness to prepare a proper scheme. He did not believe the House would stand this postponement. It would be carried out this Session. One of the charges which the Opposition were prepared to prove against the Ministry, was that they had exceeded their limited powers in respect to the disposal of the public funds. The Hon. Attorney-General had brought a great shame upon the country by his

open statements as to the principle adopted for the location of public buildings. The disposal of railway aid money was so great an outrage to constitutional rules, that he felt compelled to move, seconded by Mr. Pardee, that the following words be added to the first paragraph:—"But we feel bound to take the earliest opportunity of informing Your Excellency that we regret the course taken by the Legislative Assembly last Session, under the guidance of your present Ministers in reference to the large powers given to the Executive as to the disposition of the Railway Aid Fund; and to state that in our opinion the proposal of the Government to grant aid to any railway should be submitted for the approval or rejection of the Legislative Assembly, so as not to leave so large a sum as \$1,500,000 at the disposal of the Executive, without a vote of this House, appropriating the same to particular works."

Hon. M. C. CAMERON said the hon. gentleman, in introducing the amendment which he had brought forward, had shown that the present Session was to be marked by the same tactics as the preceding ones. The hon. gentleman had referred to certain things which the previous legislation of the country had made fixed facts, and which it was idle to deal with otherwise, and which it would have been thought a sense of right and propriety would have shown him it was unnecessary to allude to. He alluded to the murder of Scott. The hon. gentleman had found at the previous election that the inflammatory address which he had uttered in that House had had the effect on the country which was intended. If ever there was a thing that would disgrace a statesman, it was the resolutions which were brought into that House on the subject of the murder of Scott. He (the hon. gentleman) knew there was no supporter of the Government who did not condemn the outbreak. He knew that the Government had nothing to do with it, and that it was improper that it should be mentioned here, and yet, finding the success he had had on the first occasion, he referred to it again. The hon. gentleman had also referred to the representation of Manitoba, but that had nothing to do with our representation. But his hon. friend (the Attorney-General) argued against it then, and voted against it then. (Cheers). The hon. gentleman had also referred to the action of certain parties with reference to alleged interference with the elections in Ontario, and challenged the hon. member for Essex to declare whether it was so or not that the Dominion Government had interfered with his election. He charged the government, too, with having brought on the elections at a time when it was not in the interests of the Opposition that they should be so brought on. But was it not just as inconvenient for the Atty.-General's supporters as for the hon. member's friends? the bad state of the roads could not be brought forward as an obstacle to the one side more than the other. He felt quite certain that if they had not time to counteract the effect of this resolution on the subject of Scott, if there had been time for the sober thought of the people, a very different tale would have been told. The hon. gentleman had not chosen to attack anything that had been presented in the Speech from the Throne, but he appeared to take his stand on the payment of witnesses, which he seemed to consider a bad thing. All who were acquainted with the subject knew how great and grievous an injustice it was that criminal witnesses are not paid, but the hon. gentleman had not made up his mind on that question. The hon. gentleman said there were some persons in the community who must bear a portion of the burdens of the State, but he probably did not forget that at one time the jurors were not paid. But the injustice of that was so manifest that a provision was afterwards made for their payment. Jurors, judges, constables, clerks of the court, and everyone connected with the administration of justice were now paid except the unfortunate individual who was called upon to discharge the duties of a juror. It did not matter how poor he might be, the hon. gentleman would not say whether they should be paid or not.

Mr. BLAKE (interrupting)—The hon. gentleman knows that indigent witnesses are paid.

Mr. CAMERON continued—In some cases if the judge ordered it it was so. But the man who received, say his dollar a day should not ask for payment in that way. The hon. gentleman had chosen to say that the Government had forfeited its pledges and claimed that this House must exercise a control over the expenditure of the country's money, but as a stickler for constitutional practice he would be aware that by our constitution every transaction relating to the expenditure of money is not to originate with the Government, and that it is not within the power of the House to dispose of it unless so recommended, but yet he wished the House to deal with that subject. The constitution of the country said that the responsibility rested with the Government in advising His Excellency as to the expenditure of the money; but the Government felt that while this arbitration was unsettled and the extent of the debt as yet not ascertained it would be unwise for them to deal with monies which were only in their hands as the trustees of the people. His hon. friend knew the popular objection to direct taxation and knew also that if the award was thrown over it was quite possible that under a new award they might have a much larger share of the debt of the country thrown upon them. It must not be forgotten that it was in a great extent to the opposition of the hon. member for South Bruce they were indebted for the difficulties that had arisen; the opponents of the settlement having been encouraged by the views expressed by that hon. gentleman. Now the Government had violated no pledges that they had made. When the Government asked the representatives of the people on the floor of that House to appropriate a million and a half for railway purposes, and when the hon. member for South Bruce proposed that the whole of the surplus money in the Treasurer's hands should be disposed of at once by handing it over to the different municipalities of the country, the Govern-

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TORONTO, TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 1871.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO, Second Parliament—First Session.

MONDAY, 11th Dec. 1871.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3:10 and, the mace having been laid upon the table, read to the House a letter which he had received from Mr. Fraser, the member for West Northumberland,

RESIGNING HIS SEAT.

This communication was, he said, informal.

Mr. BLAKE—Then, I presume that it will not be acted upon.

ATTY-GEN. MACDONALD—Oh, don't be alarmed. We are not in a hurry.

PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

Atty-Gen. Macdonald. From Wm. H. Harris and others of the First Colored Calvinistic Baptist Church, of Toronto, praying for powers to appoint trustees and for other purposes.

Mr. McKellar.—From Archibald McKellar and others of Kent, for an Act to incorporate "The Wilberforce Educational Institute."

Mr. Pardee.—From County Council, Lambton, for certain amendments to municipal law.

Mr. Pardee.—From Geo. Leggatt and others, for an Act for construction of a street railway from Sandwich to Windsor.

Mr. Fairbairn.—County Council, Peterborough, for the repeal of the Act legalizing certain by-laws granting bonuses to the Grand Junction Railway.

Mr. Scott, (Grey).—From North Grey Railway Co., for Act to amalgamate Toronto, Simcoe and Muskoka Railway and the North Grey Railway.

Mr. Williams, (Durham).—Adolph Hugel and others, for a charter to construct a certain railway.

Mr. Wood, (Victoria).—Two for an Act for the construction of the Bowmanville, Lindsay and Bobcaygeon Railway.

Mr. Wood.—From Fenelon Falls Railway Co., for Act to amend their charter Act.

Mr. Gow.—County Council, Wellington, for reconsideration of Act setting aside North Riding for representation purposes.