

TORONTO, TUESDAY, JAN. 23.

Parliament of Ontario.

SECOND PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, JAN. 22.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

MEMBER INTRODUCED.

Mr. GEORGE W. HAMILTON, Member for Prescott, was introduced by Hon. Mr. Scott and Mr. Cumberland, and took his seat.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Mr. Wood—From the Norfolk Railway Company, for an Act to revive their charter.

Mr. Lauder—From the Wesleyan Church in Canada in connection with the English Conference, for an Act to extend their Trust.

Mr. Cameron—From James Michie and others, of Toronto, for an Act to incorporate them under the name of the Toronto Dairy Company.

Mr. Cameron—From James H. Wilson and others for an alteration in the law respecting the Superannuated Teachers' Fund.

Mr. Robinson—From the City Council of Kingston, for an Act to consolidate the city debt.

Mr. Gibson—From M. C. Cameron and others, of Goderich, for an Act uniting the County of Huron for registration purposes.

Mr. Boulton—From John C. Kilton and others, of Toronto, for an Act to incorporate the Superior Silver Island Company.

Mr. Crooks—From Albert Furniss, of Montreal, for an Act to enable him to carry on the Toronto Waterworks.

Mr. McLeod—From Christopher Chittick and others, of Manvers, for an Act to incorporate the Bowmanville, Lindsay and Bobcaygeon Railway Company. Also, from Henry McQuade and others, of Manvers, to the same effect.

Mr. Prince—From Allister M. Clarke and others, of Toronto, for an Act incorporating them under the name of the Dominion Oil Works Association.

Mr. Bethune—From James Fleming, of Brampton, for an Act to authorize the Law Society to admit him as an attorney and solicitor.

Mr. Sinclair—From the Township Council of the united townships of Albermarle and Eastnor, praying that the control of the Indian Lands may be assumed by the Government of Ontario.

Mr. Gibson—From the Township Council of Hullett, for a fair distribution of the Railway Fund to the London, Huron, and Bruce Railway Company. Also, from the County Council of Huron, for certain amendments in the Registry Act.

Mr. Dawson—From the County Council of Kent, for certain amendments in the Municipal Law.

Mr. Deacon—From the Village Council of Pembroke, for an Act to legalize a by-law in aid of the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company.

Mr. Gibson—From the County Council of Huron, for certain amendments in the Municipal Act.

Mr. Code—From the Canada Bolt Company, for an Act to enable them to manufacture and sell carriage, railway and other bolts.

Mr. Williams (Hamilton)—From the Ontario Carbon Oil Company for an Act to amend their charter.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. BLAKE moved the adoption of the Select Committee appointed to strike the Standing Committees.

Mr. CAMERON asked that Mr. Lauder's name be added to the Railway Committee.

Mr. BLAKE suggested that Mr. Barber's name be also added to that committee.

This was agreed to, and the motion was carried.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. CAMERON—To amalgamate the Toronto, Simcoe and Muskoka Junction Railway Company, the Northern Railway Company, and the Northern Extension Railway Company.

Mr. MACDONALD (Leeds)—To incorporate the Shuniah Silver Mining Company. (This Bill was introduced by Mr. Macdonald as an Act, and Mr. E. B. Wood kindly informed that gentleman that the expression "a Bill" was the correct one, the Bill not becoming an Act till it was passed.)

Mr. SPRINGER—To incorporate the North Shore Silver Mining Company.

Mr. CAMERON—To consolidate the debt and debt of the city of Toronto.

Mr. SMITH—To authorize the Law Society of Ontario to admit Edward Stonehouse as barrister-at-law.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

Mr. BLAKE suggested that it might suit the convenience of the House if the debate raised by the explanations made by the Commissioner of Crown Lands should be made continuous, and then close, so that the House might proceed to business. He remarked that the member for Cornwall was now in his place.

Mr. CUMBERLAND understood that the Commissioner of Crown Lands was awaiting the presence of the member for Cornwall in order to make further explanations.

Mr. BLAKE observed that the Commissioner of Crown Lands had said this—that if the member for Cornwall were in his seat he (Mr. Scott) would be glad to make any further observations which the remarks of the member for Cornwall would demand.

Mr. CUMBERLAND said he had not the advantage of being in the House on Friday,

but had seen the report of the proceedings in that organ which was always celebrated for its accuracy. In that report Mr. Scott was made to say that he would have something further to say if the member for Cornwall were present. But it now seemed as if Mr. Scott had determined to act up to the saying "that discretion was the better part of valour." Mr. Blake had asked the members of the House to define their position. He (Mr. Cumberland) had the greatest difficulty in defining his position. (A laugh.) For instance, there were his friends the member for Prescott—(Mr. Hamilton)—and the Commissioner of Crown Lands. He (Mr. Cumberland) was disposed to say "How happy could I be with either were either dearer or dearer away." (Laughter.) He (Mr. Cumberland) would say for himself that he would cut himself free from the bigotry of party lines in judging the measures of the Government. He would judge of measures not of men. He would be governed by party lines, and would not do as the late Opposition had done, oppose every measure introduced by the Atty.-General because it was he who introduced it. He would accept from gentlemen opposite every measure on its merits; if good he would be glad to offer them his best assistance; if bad, he would oppose them. He would hold himself not at the service of party, but at the service of his country. (Applause.)

Mr. SEXTON said gentlemen who had opposed the late Coalition Government were accused of inconsistency in supporting the present Government. He was just as much opposed now to Coalitions as ever, and if he believed the present Government was a Coalition he would not support it a single hour. He proceeded to contrast the principles of the late Government with those of the present, and argued that the essential element of a Coalition was wanting in the case of the latter. The principles of the Government were those which the Reform party had advocated for the last four years. The Reform party had full confidence in the Premier, and they cared more for the principles upon which the Government was formed than for its personnel. As for himself, and speaking from a party point of view, he regretted the selection of Mr. Scott, but he believed his appointment was in the interests of the country, as it was only right to have the Eastern section of the Province represented in the Cabinet. It was also a practical refutation of the cry so often raised against the Reform party that they would not when they came into power give justice to the Catholics of the Province. He believed the Government was one which fully represented the whole country, and that the interests of the country would be safe in their keeping, and therefore he would give them his cordial support.

Mr. McCALLUM said he would judge the Government by their measures. If the measures were good he would support them irrespective of party considerations.

Mr. LAUDER, after some remarks respecting the member for South Westport, proceeded to defend his action in taking the oath as a member when the Judges had declared that he was not elected. He denounced the President of the Council for increasing the number of the Executive Council, and for pressing a vote against the late Government when eight constituencies were unrepresented. During the last four years he had given offence not only to the President of the Council but to that gentleman's master outside of the House. He proceeded to complain of the way he had been used by that gentleman and by the press, and particularly that he had been used in a dishonest manner because he had voted one way one day and the next day voted in a directly opposite way—referring to the Nova Scotia resolutions. He asked where were these resolutions now? The policy of the Government was neutrality towards the Dominion Government; there was to be no more opposition to that Government; the Nova Scotia resolutions had been abandoned. He argued that the policy of neutrality would prevent the Government from taking any action on the Scott murder, or the representation in the House of Commons of Manitoba and British Columbia.

Mr. SINCLAIR thought the political career of the last speaker should prevent him from lecturing any member of the House upon inconsistency.

That gentleman was elected in 1867 as a member of the Opposition.

Mr. LAUDER—No.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he had relations in Grey who were Conservatives, and who had voted against him, and subsequently regretted that they had done so, and said that had they known how he was going they would have voted for him. And at the opening of the first session, when the Reformers gave a dinner to their leader, that gentleman was one of the committee. It did not become such a man to lecture any one upon inconsistency, nor did it become gentlemen who had believed in coalitions to denounce the Government for, as they said, following the course which they had always contended was the right course.

Mr. BOULTBEE argued that unless it could be shown that there had been any abnegation of principle in the admission of Mr. Scott into the Cabinet, no objection could be taken to his appointment.

Mr. PERRY said that Mr. Lauder need not be at all concerned as to the personal composition of the Government. The Reformers in the House were all satisfied; so were the Reformers throughout the country. (Hear, hear.) In 1867 Mr. Lauder was content to be called a Reformer; for a deputation having called upon him to ascertain what were his opinions, he answered, "THE GLOBE supports me; THE GLOBE takes me up." (Hear, hear.) It did seem singular that a gentleman who had pursued such an inconsistent course should presume to lecture others on their supposed inconsistency. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Perry) would be quite prepared to support the Government as long as they carried out the views they had enunciated on the floor of the House.

Mr. ARDAGH wished to define his position. On the first occasion when he appeared before his constituents he was opposed by the late Government, and on the second occasion he was opposed by the new Government, so that he was under no obligations to either

party. He was, however, under obligations to his constituents, and he believed he should best discharge these obligations by supporting all measures that he believed to be for the good of the country. Had he taken his seat when first elected he could not have supported the Crown Lands policy of the late Government, although his sympathies were to a certain extent with that party. With regard to the charges against the Commissioner of Crown Lands, he did not believe them, and would not until that gentleman was proved guilty. He would be prepared to give the Government a fair support in all measures he considered good, and until they should do something unworthy of his support.

Mr. FERGUSON defended at some length the course of the late Government. He contended that the Commissioner of Crown Lands was still a Conservative, and that the Government was a Coalition; although it had been reported outside that the President of the Council was one of the strongest Tories in the Province. (Laughter.) He condemned the addition of a sixth Member to the Cabinet as unconstitutional. He defended the Crown Lands policy of the late Government, and wound up by saying that the House should know whether the Commissioner of Crown Lands was a Conservative now or a Reformer; and that he would judge the Government by their measures.

Mr. ROBINSON said that after listening to the arguments of gentlemen in Opposition he had come to the conclusion that they did not so much want to prove to the House as to themselves that the Government was a Coalition. They were already beginning to feel the cold chills of opposition, and they wanted an excuse to support the Government. With regard to the man Lewis, about whom so much had been said outside in connection with his conduct in Grey, he would take the liberty of saying that he did not believe the Government had anything to do with his conduct, but the sooner they dismissed him the better. Being appointed by the late Government, that gentleman had probably not forgotten his old tricks, but the new Government ought to free themselves of him.

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

After recess Mr. PRINCE exposed the unfairness of the attack upon the Commissioner of Crown Lands. He showed how clearly it had been proven that it was without foundation, and he believed that now gentlemen on both sides of the House fully believed that the Commissioner was not guilty of the charges made against him. And yet in the face of all that the member for East Toronto had interrogated the Commissioner of Crown Lands as if he did not believe him. He denied that the member for East Toronto had any right to ask the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands whether or not he was a Conservative. He knew Mr. Scott well; he had been at the same school with him, and knew him to be an honourable man in the highest sense of the word. The real question was—were people never to change their opinions? (Hear, hear.) He did not know what a deliberative assembly meant if it did not mean a place where gentlemen met to discuss matters and modify their opinions. The accusations against Mr. Scott had been completely refuted; and he could not but help thinking that the matter and manner of the accusations had been highly reprehensible. He could not but consider that it was out of place to read—as Mr. M. C. Cameron had done—columns of extracts from newspapers, and the opinions of newspaper correspondents, and interpolate these extracts with opinions of his own. Mr. Prince proceeded to refer to attacks that had been made on him by Mr. M. C. Cameron and Mr. John S. Macdonald, and said that the long Parliamentary experience of these gentlemen should have taught them better habits of speech. He had been accused of having said, at Windsor, that Mr. Cameron had acted in a manner unworthy a Minister of the Crown. Now, since this debate had commenced that accusation had been fully justified. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Prince) had considered that the last Ministry was inefficient, and there was excellent material at hand to form another. He believed the country was of the same opinion. He had heard it argued that Mr. Blake had usurped the office he held. But the 63rd and 134th sections of the Confederation Act showed plainly that the Lieutenant-Governor had full power to confer the office of President of the Council on Mr. Blake. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Prince) would give the new Government fair play, and the country would do the same. (Applause.)

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD reiterated the charge that the Government was a coalition Government. He quoted from a newspaper which he said was in the Government interest, complaining that it had spoken of the member for Toronto East as "Mr. Cameron." (Laughter.) Mr. Macdonald proceeded at length to repeat that there had been a coalition; and complained that under the new Government the control of the surplus would be placed in the hands of the House, and not in those of the Executive. (Oh, oh, and laughter.)

Dr. BOULTBEE said he would not give the Government a factious opposition, but would judge of their measures on their merits.

Mr. McCUAIG said he thought that the sum of \$1,500,000 was too large to be entrusted to any Government, and that the course of the present Premier, in respect to that money, was perfectly right. He had confidence in the Commissioner of Crown Lands and in the Premier, whose father he (Mr. McCuaig) had known, and whose example he hoped the son would follow. It was his (Mr. McCuaig's) intention to determine to give the present Government fair play. He thought that their policy would commend itself to the people of the country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CORBY was better pleased with the formation of this Government than with that of the last. He would give it an honest and fair support in all measures he thought beneficial to the country. He would trust to the present Government for a more liberal policy in regard to the timber limits than the policy furnished by the last Government.

Mr. GRANGE would also judge Government by their measures, and would give them a reasonable support. The bill of fare brought down by the Government was, he believed, a good one, and would not be thought, and much objection.

Mr. GUEST said he would give the new Ministry a fair trial, although he did not approve of the way they reached the Treasury benches. He hoped the present Government would bring down a more liberal timber policy than that of the late Government, with which he was not altogether satisfied. He thought a settler should have all the timber upon his own land. He believed the country was safe in the hands of the present Government.

Mr. GALBRAITH replied to some remarks of the member for Leeds, to the effect that he (Mr. G.) should have been taken into the new Cabinet. He said he came into the House in 1867 as a warm friend of the leader of the late Government, but he opposed them because they had shown a determination to arrogate to themselves too much power. He was a strong party man, and did not believe in a member talking of supporting good measures no matter where they came from. No member would say that he would support bad measures. He did not believe in parties dividing merely upon measures as they came up. A Government could never be conducted on such a principle. A Government was entitled to the hearty support of all its friends. It had been stated that the people of North Lanark was annoyed because he was not offered a seat in the Cabinet. He never had the least expectation of receiving such an offer, and if the people of North Lanark thought he should have a seat in the Cabinet none of them ever told him so. He believed the measures of the Government would be satisfactory, and he also believed that the principles upon which the Government would endeavour to conduct the business of the country were sound; and such being the case, he believed he would be able to give them a hearty support. (Cheers.)

Mr. FLAKE rose to wind up the debate.

He believed the Government had good reason to congratulate themselves upon the result of the discussion. Before the Christmas recess three of the late Ministers of the Crown entered into an attack upon the Commissioner of Crown Lands, which he believed they now heartily regretted—not that they would have regretted it if they had succeeded, but in consequence of their lamentable failure. He was by no means prepared to say that it was not the duty at times of public men to perform the disagreeable task of investigating the political conduct of other public men; but he might fairly say that charges against the characters of public men should be made only upon due deliberation, after a reasonable measure of investigation, and upon a tolerably deep conviction on the part of those who make them that they are true and can be established. And he might also lay down the principle that although such convictions might exist in the minds of the accusers, and though they might render it necessary that the accusations should be made, it was the duty of a public man in this Christian country when he found that his accusations had been untrue to openly, fairly and fully retract them upon the instant, and himself announce that verdict of acquittal which every gentleman would ought to rejoice to pronounce, particularly the man who had made the accusation. Now, what did they find here? The honourable members for East Toronto, or Niagara and for Cornwall, when the Commissioner of Crown Lands was unable to take his seat, but, with a refinement of cruelty, in his presence, had made serious charges against him—charges so serious that he (Mr. Blake), who had never heard a whisper of them before, felt bound to take this course:—First of all he felt that these were charges that could only be effectually answered by the Commissioner of Crown Lands himself; therefore, when these accusations were made he did not enquire concerning them of his hon. friend in order that he might refute them, because he felt that they were of such a nature that the refutation should come from his own friend. Secondly, he felt that his own position required that he should state as he did, that these charges were of such a character that if true they not merely unfitted the honourable gentlemen for the position which he had asked him to occupy, but for a seat on the floor of the House. He repeated that statement now. If the charges had been true they would have unfitted his hon. friend for the society of all honourable gentlemen.

Mr. CAMERON asked the hon. gentleman to state what the charges were, so that he might see whether they were those he had made.

Mr. BLAKE said his hon. friend was charged with being the paid advocate and agent of the lumbermen.

Mr. RICHARDS said he had been waiting till the Commissioner of Crown Lands took his seat to repeat the charges he had made.

Mr. Blake resumed his seat to allow Mr. Richards to make his statements.

Mr. RICHARDS said that he had denounced the appointment of Mr. Scott as highly improper, on the grounds that that gentleman was in the interest of a particular trade, and that it was wrong and against public morality that he should preside over a department where these interests clashed with those of the department. There was always in the Crown Lands Department a struggle between the settlers and the lumbermen; and it was wrong in the highest degree that a gentleman who represented the interests of the lumbermen should be called on to decide these disputes; for it was not in the nature of things that he should judge impartially. The Commissioner was also called upon to decide as to what lands should be opened to settlement; and it was wrong that a gentleman representing the lumber interest should be called on to judge in this matter. There was also the collection of timber dues, and the same remark would apply in this as in the previous case. He had nothing to say against Mr. Scott's personal honour or character, but would repeat that, all things considered, he should not be placed, at any rate, at the head of the Crown Lands Department. He (Mr. Richards) would not complain if Mr.