

Parliament of Ontario.

SECOND PARLIAMENT---FIRST SESSION.

TUESDAY, JAN. 24

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

The petition presented by Mr. Devoche yesterday from James Wood and 1,020 other ratepayers of the County of Frontenac, was against the legalization of the by-law granting a bonus of \$150,000 to the Kingston & Pembroke Railway, not for it.

Hon. Mr. Cameron—From George Thomas Haigh, of Toronto, for an Act to authorize the Law Society to call him to the bar.

Hon. Mr. Carling—From the London City Gas Works, for an Act to authorize them to extend their line of piping, &c., to the Asylum. Also, from the London, Huron, and Bruce Railway Company, for an Act to extend the time for the beginning and completion of the said road.

Mr. Williams (Durham)—From John Sutton and others, public school teachers of Ontario, praying that no alteration be made in the law respecting the Superannuated Teachers' Fund.

Mr. McLeod—From the Town Council of Bowmanville, for an Act to incorporate the Bowmanville, Lindsay and Bobcaygeon Railway Company.

Mr. Oliver—From Daniel Freeman and others, of Norfolk, for an Act to incorporate the Port Burwell and Ingersoll Railway Company.

Mr. Christie—From the Town Council of Dundas, for an Act to enable them to close Rosina street.

Mr. Springer—From the Village Council of Waterloo, for an Act empowering them to extend the Grand Trunk Railway from Berlin to Waterloo. Also, from the Town Council of Galt, for an Act to confirm an agreement with the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and to extend the line from Doon to Galt.

Mr. Clemens—From the Grand Trunk Railway Company, for a similar Act.

Mr. Coyne—From John Haggert and others, of Brampton, for an Act to incorporate the Brampton Water Works.

Mr. McCall—From Thos. Fry and others, of Norfolk, praying that no farther acquisition of territory be granted to the Long Point Company.

Mr. Ardagh—From the Village Council of Orillia, for an Act to sell certain lands known as the Market Block.

Mr. Sinclair—From the Township Council of Amabel, praying that the Indian lands in Ontario may be under the control of the Crown Lands Department.

Mr. Clarke (Norfolk)—From the County Council of Norfolk, for amendments to the Drainage Act.

Mr. Tooley—From the County Council of Middlesex, praying that the Township of Delaware may be annexed to the East Riding of the County of Middlesex.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Hodgins—To amend the Act incorporating the Credit Valley Railway Company.

Mr. Pardee—To incorporate the Ontario Mineral Lands Mining Company.

GENERAL RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

Mr. OLIVER asked the Ministry if it was their intention to bring down during the present session a general Railway Bill, to provide for the construction of railroads without applying to the Legislature for special charters.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said it was not.

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Mr. SCOTT (North Grey) asked if the grammar school lands were included with the common school and Crown lands in making up the Land Improvement Fund from 30th June, 1867, and if not, does the Government intend to make up and distribute the Improvement Fund on these lands sold between the passing of 16 Vic., chap. 159, and the 6th March, 1861, paid into the Treasury since Confederation.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the Government did intend to do so, and would place a sum in the estimates for that purpose.

TARGET RIFLES.

Mr. McDONALD (Leeds), enquired of the Ministry whether they were prepared to recommend His Excellency to make an appropriation of a reasonable amount for the purchase of target rifles for the use of the volunteers of Ontario, to be issued in such manner and subject to such Government lien as may be considered advisable.

Mr. BLAKE said the Government, having nothing to do with Militia matters, did not intend to make any such appropriation.

SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE.

Mr. McDONALD (Leeds), asked the Ministry whether they intended during this Session to initiate legislation in reference to the solemnization of marriage in the Province of Ontario, and the appointment of issuers of marriage licenses.

Mr. BLAKE said the question as to the necessity of legislation was under the consideration of the Government, but it was not their intention to take action upon either question this session.

RE-VALUATION OF SCHOOL LANDS.

Mr. LAUDER asked whether or not it was the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session a measure authorizing the re-valuation of that class of the unpatented public lands sold to settlers, known as School Lands.

Mr. SCOTT said that, to the extent to which this Province was interested, they intended to do so this session.

Mr. LAUDER asked whether or not patents will now be issued to settlers in the townships of Melancthon and Proton, on

payment of the prices or valuations under the report of Messrs Lewis and Thorburn, made under the Act of last session. Also, whether or not the re-valuation of all unpatented lands sold to settlers is to be proceeded with, as directed by this Act.

Mr. SCOTT said, with reference to the first question, he had not had opportunity yet of examining those reports, and until he did so it would be impossible to answer the question. As to the other part of the question it was the intention of the Government to proceed with those re-valuations.

STATUTES TO MAGISTRATES.

Mr. MERRICK asked the Ministry whether they intended to furnish the Statutes of Ontario free of cost to qualified Justices of the Peace, as had been hitherto done by the old Parliament of Canada and the present Dominion Parliament.

Mr. BLAKE answered in the affirmative. (Cheers)

LONG POINT COMPANY.

Mr. McCALL moved for an address for copies of all applications by the Long Point Company for a confirmatory patent, or to purchase, lease, or otherwise to acquire certain lands or marshes outside of Long Point, northerly of Blocks Nos 15 and 16, on Long Point; with copies of all letters and correspondence between the said company and the Government relative thereto.

RESIGNATION OF HON. MR. WOOD.

Mr. M. C. CAMERON rose to move for a Select Committee to enquire whether any and what corrupt inducement or offer was made to the Hon. E. B. Wood, a member of this House, to induce him to resign his position as Treasurer of the Province of Ontario, by the Hon. E. Blake or any other member of the present Administration, while members of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly; such committee to have power to send for persons and papers. He said that when the resignation by the late Treasurer took place, that gentleman stated that he had not spoken of the matter except to Mr. Rykert. But the other evening the late Treasurer went further, and said that he had spoken to Mr. Blake on the subject of his resignation.

Mr. E. B. WOOD—I said nothing of the kind. I said, and always said, that I had told no one of my resignation until after I had resigned, with the exception of Mr. Rykert, the member for Lincoln.

Mr. CAMERON said the invariable practice had been for a member of an Administration to tender his resignation to his Excellency through the Premier of the Government. But Mr. Wood had not pursued that course. The first intimation that any Member of the Government had as to Mr. Wood's intention of resigning, was a letter he had sent to the Attorney-General about three quarters or half an hour before the House met. He (Mr. Cameron) intended to rely on certain parties for the purpose of establishing complicity between the President of the Council and the late Treasurer, in the matter of the resignation of the latter. The reason that Mr. Wood assigned for his resignation was that he was unable to bring any Reform support to the Administration. But he never did bring any support, and, therefore, the reason was not a valid one. He (Mr. Cameron) expected to be able to prove: That Mr. Wood was in communication with the President of the Council on the very day that the resignation took place, and that on that day written communications had passed between them. That, after the resignation took place, the President of the Council had conversations with the late Treasurer as to how he should speak, and that he had made an arrangement with the late Treasurer as to the speaking of the latter on the floor of the House on the subject under discussion. That the late President of the Council was controlling when the late Attorney-General and Mr. Cameron were discussing with the late Treasurer on matters connected with the Government, a communication came from Mr. Blake to the late Treasurer. That that communication was one which the late Treasurer very much desired that he (Mr. Cameron) should not see; and that the Treasurer was not aware that he (Mr. Cameron) knew it came from Mr. Blake. That communications passed between Mr. Blake and Mr. Wood, over the floor of the House, after the resignation of Mr. Wood. That Mr. Wood, during the day on which he resigned, was seen several times with members of the Opposition. That after the resignation of Mr. Wood, Mr. Blake got up in his seat, and showed by his manner that something very agreeable had taken place. (A laugh) That the late Treasurer removed from his usual seat and took a seat further back, which was a signal, he (Mr. Cameron) said, that Mr. Wood was going to resign. These were the grounds on which he (Mr. Cameron) based his accusation. He hoped the Government would not presume to deny the granting of the committee. If he failed to make out his case, he would have the greater burden to bear for having pressed the matter.

The motion was seconded by Mr. CARLING.

Mr. BLAKE—Do I understand you to say that corrupt inducements or offers were made?

Mr. CAMERON—Yes.

Mr. BLAKE—What other members of the Administration do you charge?

Mr. CAMERON—I am not prepared to say there were other members, though one of the members of the Administration was aware of the matter.

Mr. BLAKE said it was only reasonable when Mr. Cameron made a charge of this character, that he should name the criminals he indicted. If Mr. Cameron were prepared to charge all the members of the Administration, let him say so. It was but fair that the House should have the names of those whom Mr. Cameron was prepared to charge.

Mr. CAMERON said he would let his resolution remain as it was.

Mr. BLAKE said that Mr. Cameron had declined to particularise any other members of the Administration, while including them all in his indictment. He (Mr. Blake) proposed to amend the resolution, if Mr. Cameron declined to particularise those whom he indicted. The amendment would read as follows:—"That the Hon. M. C. Cameron, a member of this House, having in his place