

dent of the Council or the Commissioner of Public Works—before their face; but he did behind their back. He would raise the impression throughout the country that the Government was connected with this matter, and then having done so, he would come to the House and say that there was strong impression produced on the public mind, and that he would come forward to vindicate the liberties of the people of South Grey. (Hear, hear.) The first distinct charge was that Mr. Lewis had come to the South Riding of Grey, having in his possession the original valuation books. Mr. Lauder had sought to convey the impression that Mr. Lewis had got the books from the Crown Lands Department.

Mr. LAUDER—I deny that.
Mr. BLAKE—Would the gentleman deny that the affidavits conveyed the inference that the books Lewis brought into the South Riding of Grey were procured from the Crown Lands Department? He would read the following letter to the House:—

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS,
Toronto, 25th Jan., 1872.

"SIR,—I have now to state, with reference to the inspection performed by J. B. Lewis and David Thorburn in the townships of Proton and Melancthon, that they commenced that inspection on the 18th of July and made their final report on the 20th of October last, depositing their book of inspection with the papers connected therewith on that day. The said book has since that time remained in this office, and has not been absent from the office a single moment since that time, and no copy or extract from the said book has been given to any one."

"Your obedient servant,
"THOS. H. JOHNSON,
Assistant Commissioner."

"The Hon. R. W. Scott,
Commissioner of Crown Lands."

(Hear, hear.)

Mr. BLAKE proceeded. The newspaper in Mr. Lauder's interest had stated that Mr. Lewis had come to Toronto, had had an interview with him (Mr. Blake), and that he had received a special pledge that the vote of Proton would have the reduction on the lands if they voted for his (Mr. Blake's) candidate. Mr. Lauder knew full well the object he had in view in making this statement. He knew it was to strike a blow at Mr. Blake's character, and to strike a blow at the Administration by connecting him (Mr. Blake) with the matter. Mr. Lewis had written a letter, in which he stated that he had seen him (Mr. Blake) at the town of Walkerton. He (Mr. Blake) saw a gentleman named Lewis at Walkerton, in March last. He introduced himself to him (Mr. Blake), and had about five minutes' conversation with him, stating that he was of the same political views. But he (Mr. Blake) had never had speech with Mr. Lewis, had never sent or received a letter from him, had never held communication with him directly or indirectly, touching the South Grey election. (Cheers.) Further, Mr. Lewis had never seen him (Mr. Blake), nor had speech of any description with him touching the South Grey election. He (Mr. Blake) was quite confident that Mr. Lauder had not the slightest reason to say that he believed that Lewis had any communication with or from him (Mr. Blake) in regard to that election. With regard to the Commissioner of Agriculture, he (Mr. Blake) did not intend to say a single word. The affidavits were the strongest proof that they were directed against him (Mr. Blake), and, falling in the attack on him, they were turned on Mr. McKellar. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Blake) had not the slightest doubt that the affidavits were intended for him in the first place, but the guns would not go off. It had been stated that Mr. Rykert and Judge Gwynne had given Mr. Lewis a certificate of character. But the statement that Mr. Lewis had seen him (Mr. Blake) on the South Grey election would hardly receive the credence of the House or country. He (Mr. Blake) had not the slightest doubt at all that whether or not Mr. Lewis were to affirm that he had seen him (Mr. Blake) the House and country, after what he (Mr. Blake) had said, would not believe the statement. (Cheers.) If the Government had interfered with the free voting of the people it would deserve the severest condemnation. This chamber would revolt against a Government that would prostitute its power to destroy the freedom of election. He (Mr. Blake) would be the last man in the country to hold up his head in the humblest place in this House, instead of in the highest, if he had lent himself to any such base purpose. (Cheers.) What attitude did he take in the South Riding of Grey? He had declared, in the presence of the late Treasurer, that no matter who was returned for the Riding the just claims of its people would receive due consideration from the Government. (Hear, hear.) He had said to them:—"I promise you, on the faith of a word never yet broken, that whether you elect Mr. Lauder or Mr. Dickey the new Government will deal with your interests on the principles of justice." (Cheers.) He appealed to the members for East Toronto and West Northumberland to say if he had not uttered this sentiment. And speaking in the town of Cobourg, a town deeply interested in the Municipal Loan Fund, he said:—"I do not come here to allow it to be said in my presence that the return of Mr. Fisher will advance your material interests, or the return of Mr. Gifford retard them." (Hear, hear.) He told them to exercise their liberty of voting with perfect freedom, and if they thought Mr. Gifford was their best man it was their duty to return him. (Hear, hear.) He told his supporters now that he never claimed a favour for his own constituency, and he did not want them to claim favours for theirs, except those claims were founded upon justice. What he desired was even-handed justice to every section of the country, regardless of the political opinions of any section. (Applause.) The member for South Grey had attempted to fasten a charge on him.

Mr. LAUDER—On a former occasion I told the President of the Council that I did not charge him.

Mr. BLAKE said that the gentleman had endeavoured to blacken his character, and to spread charges abroad where, perhaps, the refutation would never follow. He (Mr. Blake) knew that Mr. Lauder knew in his heart that he (Mr. Blake) had never held intercourse with Lewis and had never seen him with reference to the election. And knowing this, Mr. Lauder had thought it

mainly, honourable, decent and Christian to spread broadcast throughout the country calumnies that were calculated to stain his (Mr. Blake's) character. (Hear, hear.) He would now acknowledge, confess, and avow that there was interference in South Grey on the part of the Government. He should be prepared to prove that there was Government influence in this election for the South Riding of Grey. The hon. gentleman knew that the late Government was at his instigation, endeavouring to influence these voters. A question was raised with reference to the Grammar School Lands and the improvement upon them. The hon. gentleman knew that the Grammar School House were not included within the provisions of the law and the Order-in-Council respecting the Land Improvement Fund. One respecting the townships in the county of Grey had been to a township of Grammar School land, and complaints were made in his land, and complaints that they ought to have a share in the Improvement Fund. On the 11th December this letter was written by the late Treasurer:—

TORONTO, 11th December, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR,—Since my return from South Grey, and after considering the representation made by you in respect of the settlers in Proton (and others like circumstanced) on Grammar School Lands, I have consulted with other members of the Government, and they all agree with me that on principle no distinction should now be made between Grammar School Lands and Common School and Crown Lands in respect of the Land Improvement Fund. The amount of the Improvement Fund paid in since Mr. Jos. McArde's, from whom several communications had been received on behalf of settlers. Mr. Lauder's clerk, while the notice was in the printer's hands, came several times to procure copies, and when ready, about perhaps 100 or 150 copies were handed to him.

Yours, respectfully,
E. B. WOOD.

A. W. LAUDER, Esq.,
Durham.

On the 11th December, Mr. Lauder, in consideration of representations made by the hon. gentleman, the all-powerful candidate for the South Riding of Grey, who was able to write this letter from an expiring Government, this letter was sent to Grey and the electors were told, "See what you will get by supporting the Government candidate—\$4,000 or \$5,000 in the pocket of the township of Proton."

Mr. LAUDER—No, no.
Mr. BLAKE—Not so much? Were they bought so cheap, then? (Laughter and applause.) Mr. Blake proceeded to say that Mr. Thorburn and Mr. Lewis were sent by the late Government to Proton to value the land. In October or September, the late Government received the valuation; during the progress of the canvass the people were told by the hon. gentleman that he could not announce anything in that valuation, which was under the consideration of the Government, but he had every reason to believe that it would be found entirely satisfactory. But the people did not appear altogether satisfied as to that, or it was thought desirable that something more should be done to show how powerful the Government candidate was, so on the 4th December the following Order-in-Council was passed:—

"The Committee of Council have had under consideration the report of the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands; stating that J. W. Lewis and David Thorburn, Esqs., having been appointed to inspect and value certain lands in the townships of Proton and Melancthon, in the county of Grey, have completed their labours and reported the same to the Department of Crown Lands; and recommending that the Commissioner be authorized to take up the said lands, and deal with each individual case therein noted, and in cases where lands have been sold and are now occupied, and within the provisions of chapter 20 of the statutes of Ontario, of the 34th Victoria, to make such reduction in the amounts due thereon respectively as he may consider just and equitable."

"The committee advise that such recommendation be carried out."

"Toronto, 6th December, 1871."

The hon. gentleman came down to that House, was sworn at the table, and was present when the Speaker was elected. And on the 6th December, this order was passed, and he supposed the hon. gentleman brought a copy of it in his pocket.

Mr. LAUDER—I never saw it.
Mr. BLAKE—Nor heard of it?
Mr. LAUDER—I never—saw it. (Laughter.)

Mr. BLAKE said he had a list of numerous townships in which land had been reported about, but he was not aware of any other Order in Council authorizing the Commissioner to deal with it in this way. There might have been one relating to the county of Perth, but he did not know; but it was clear that at that critical moment when the member for South Grey—an unseated member—(hear, hear)—was called down by the Government to vote in the election of Speaker, this Order in Council was passed. But even that was not enough. It was necessary to bring more vividly to the notice of the people what the intentions of the Government were on the subject of the land. So on the 14th December a proclamation was issued to the settlers on the public lands:—

"NOTICE."

"SETTLERS
ON THE
PUBLIC LANDS
IN THE
TOWNSHIP OF PROTON,"

"Who are of opinion that their lands were originally purchased at a price above their value, and who considered themselves justly entitled to a reduction, under the provision of the Act 34 Victoria, chap. 20, are required to make application for such reduction to the resident agent, or direct to the Crown Land Department at Toronto. Such application must state the amount of reduction such settlers consider themselves justly entitled to, and must be accompanied with evidence, under oath, of the extent and nature of the improvements, and of the payment of municipal taxes, and the time for which taxes have been paid."

"Settlers who are not original purchasers from the Crown are required to show when and by what means they obtained possession of the land."

"THOS. H. JOHNSON,
Assistant-Commissioner."

"Department of Crown Lands,
Toronto, December 14th, 1871."

He should be happy to show the original draft of this proclamation to the hon. member for East Toronto, in whose handwriting it was.

Mr. CAMERON—I know all about it.

Mr. BLAKE—Does the hon. gentleman know what was in the original draft?

Mr. CAMERON—Yes.
Mr. BLAKE said that in the original draft were these words—"Setting forth, in such application, the reduction they desire to have made." (Oh!) That was a little too indecent, and so it was altered to what appeared in the printed form which he had read. He would produce a memorandum from an official of the Crown Lands Department, charged with distributing these notices:—

"MEMORANDUM."

"Toronto, Jan. 30, 1872."

"When the notice of the 14th December last, relating to the reduction in the price of lands in the township of Proton, was issued, copies were sent to the resident agent of the department, to the M. P. and M. P. P., to the Postmasters in, and in the vicinity of the township, and to any parties supposed to be interested in the matter, and among them Mr. Jos. McArde, from whom several communications had been received on behalf of settlers. Mr. Lauder's clerk, while the notice was in the printer's hands, came several times to procure copies, and when ready, about perhaps 100 or 150 copies were handed to him."

"J. C. TARBUTT."

"To the Commissioner Crown Lands."

So the hon. gentleman's clerk got 150 of these on the 14th of December, when the election was about to come off, to send up to his master in Grey, in order that the latter might carry them about, show them to the settlers, and say, "See how much this great candidate has been able to do for you." He got that proclamation before the public knowledge of its being issued. Was this a special or an exceptional case? He would read another letter to show that it had been made so:—

"TORONTO, Jan. 30, 1872."

"SIR,—I have the honour to state in reply to your memorandum of this morning, on the subject of the Departmental Notices issued on the 14th December last, with reference to the inspection of lands in the townships of Proton and Melancthon, that notices of a similar character have been issued by the Department to the settlers in any of the other townships which have been inspected and re-valued."

"Your obedient servant,"

"THOS. H. JOHNSON,"

"Hon. R. W. Scott,
Com. of Crown Lands,
Toronto."

He thought he had now made out his case—had proved everything which he undertook to prove. He had shown that there was Government influence attempted to be used, and that the hon. gentleman had to do with it. What more, he asked, could be done than had been done—to get these authenticated statements—calling upon those gentlemen in the manner he had read—not treating other townships and counties in a similar position in the same way—calling upon them alone, at that critical time when the hon. gentleman's political fate and the fate of the Government was hanging in the balance; to have 150 of these proclamations given to his clerk to be sent up to be peddled around the county. There was the answer which he made to the hon. gentleman's charge; and if the hon. gentleman should think—as he (Mr. Blake) thought—that his honour and the honour of the late Government demanded a select committee upon the subject, the Government would be very happy to grant him one upon that subject as well as upon the other. (Loud applause.)

Mr. OLIVER, after some humorous remarks respecting the position the member for South Grey now found himself in, proceeded to explain the circumstances connected with the telegram he (Mr. O.) had sent to Mr. Lewis. That gentleman had spoken to him about going to South Grey and asked his advice about going. He advised him not to go. Subsequently, however, he received information from South Grey to the effect that Mr. Lauder was misrepresenting to the electors the position of the question of the valuation of the lands; and then he sent the telegram to Mr. Lewis, asking him to go to South Grey, so that he might set Mr. Lauder's statements right.

Mr. WOOD made some observations respecting the letter signed by him, which the Premier had read. He said that when he was up in Grey he found that the township of Proton was nearly all grammar school lands, and that therefore the people of that township got no portion of the improvement fund. He thought this was an injustice, and the Government subsequently agreed that those townships which were composed largely of grammar school lands should have a share in the improvement fund. This was done within the wording of the Statute, and it was an act of justice. He had before the electors in South Grey repudiated the statements that had been made, that the electors would find it to their advantage, in regard to the payment of their lands, to elect a Government candidate. He did not believe that the President of the Council or the Commissioner of Public Works had anything to do with Lewis' going to Proton.

It being six o'clock, the House rose.
OMEMEE, BOBCAYGEON AND NORTH
PETERBOROUGH JUNCTION RAIL
WAY.

After recess,
The House went into committee on the Bill to incorporate the Omeme, Bobcaygeon, and North Peterborough Junction Railway Company; Mr. Rykert in the chair.

After some discussion, the Committee rose and reported progress.

CARLETON PROTESTANT HOSPITAL

The House then went into committee on the Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the County of Carleton Protestant Hospital; Mr. Macdonald (Leeds) in the chair.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

SEPARATION OF TORONTO FROM YORK

Mr. BOULTBEE moved the second reading of the Bill—To provide for the separation of the City of Toronto from the County of York for certain judicial purposes, and, except in certain cases, to prevent the trial in the County of York of any suits in which the cause of action arose in any other county. The county had suffered under a grievance in consequence of the Assizes being so much lengthened by the cases from Toronto. An Act had formerly been passed which contained the principle of the present Bill, but that Act was repealed by the Law Reform Act, with the exception of one section which provided that the county should pay the city for the use of its gaol. The clause in the former Act, which provided that the city should pay the county for the use of its court house was repealed. They now proposed that each should have its own assize, and pay its own share.

Mr. CROSBY hoped the Bill would be deferred until the County Council, now sitting, should express its opinion.

Mr. E. B. WOOD pointed out the advantage which the county of York derived from its proximity to the city of Toronto, its capital. He thought it paltry to refuse to go in with the city in legal expenses, on the ground of impetuosity and meanness.

Mr. RYKERT supported the Bill.

Mr. BLAKE thought if it were possible for the Corporation of the city and the Corporation of the county to appear before the committee and settle the local points, the Government would be able to arrange the general questions. He was not prepared to say that the Government would accept the Bill if it came back from the committee in its present shape.

Mr. BOULTBEE having replied,

The Bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee, composed of the Attorney-General, Messrs Cameron, Rykert, Patterson, Crosby, Macdonald (Leeds), Prince, Fairbairn and Boultebe.

THE DENTISTRY ACT.

Dr. BOULTER moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act 31 Vic., cap. 37, intitled "An Act respecting Dentistry."

Mr. BLAKE was quite satisfied that a less improved in Committee, the Bill was objectionable that it could never pass through the House.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee.

JOINT STOCK ROAD COMPANIES

Mr. SEXTON moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Joint Stock Road Companies Act now in force in Ontario. The object of the Bill was to compel road companies to keep the roads in proper repair.

to provide for a fair appointment of arbitrators, and for a better examination of roads.

Mr. MCKELLAR had no doubt some portions of the Bill should be accepted, but thought other portions unnecessary. He was willing that the Bill should go to a select committee.

Mr. MACDONALD (Leeds) also thought the Bill needed thorough revision in committee.

After a few words from Mr. WOOD (South Brant) to Mr. Rykert, the Bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee.

The House adjourned shortly after nine o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Cameron, on Friday next, will move an humble address to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor for a return showing the township number and concession of each lot, or part of lot of land, in the County of Norfolk, on which arrears are due to the Crown, and subject to valuation and reduction under the Act of last session; also showing the names of the original purchasers or locatee and the present claimant, together with the amount of principal and interest due on each parcel.

Mr. Scott, North Grey—On Friday next, Inquiry of Ministers whether they have decided upon the number of railways which they will recommend for participation in the Railway Fund; and if so, which railways.

Also, whether the railway companies now seeking charters and which are intended to be run through the Free Grant territory, will be recommended for participation in said railway fund.

Mr. Code—On Friday next, Inquiry of Ministers, whether or not it is their intention during the present Session to introduce a measure to allow locatees settled on Free Grant lands to assign or transfer their claims to said lands prior to the time stated in the Act for getting their patent.

Hon. E. B. Wood—Bill to repeal subsections two and three of section seventy-one of the Assessment Act of 1869, relating to the valuation of property in towns and villages for county rates.

Mr. Perry—On Friday next, Inquiry of Ministry, whether they intend during the present Session to introduce a measure amending the Assessment Laws.

Mr. Rykert—That he will move that the following clause be inserted in Bill No. 31 in Committee of the whole House:—"That every order in Council shall, immediately after the passing thereof, be published in the Ontario Gazette."