

Mr. SPRINGER moved the second reading of a bill to incorporate the North Shore Silver Mining Co. This was agreed to, and the bill was referred to committee of the whole House to-morrow.

THE ASSESSMENT LAWS.

Mr. PERRY enquired whether it was the intention of Government during the present session to introduce a measure amending the Assessment Law.

Mr. BLAKE replied that it was not the intention of Government to do so.

CROWN LANDS IN SIMCOE.

Mr. ARDAGH moved for a return of all the surveyed lands in the County of Simcoe belonging to this Province, the fee of which is still in the Crown, showing the township, town or village, number and concession of each lot or part lot; also, stating in respect to each lot or part lot the following particulars, viz:

If sold or agreed to be sold, and in such case the name of the purchaser or intending purchaser, the date of sale or agreement for sale, the price for which sold, the amount paid thereon, and the amount remaining due at date of return; also, the conditions of payment in cases of sale, and as to settlement or otherwise (if any); also, the fact of any lot or part lot being occupied or improved within the knowledge of the Crown Lands Department; and the time when such improvement made or such occupancy commenced, so far as known; also, if any timber license granted for any lot or part lot, and if so, the date and terms of such license. Mr. Ardagh explained that his object in doing so was to place information within reach of those desirous to become settlers on the Crown Lands, and also to bring the question of the treatment of settlers before the House. He thought the settlers had been harshly treated and read letters to show that such was the case. At present the settler on the public lands had no power to prevent the lumberman from coming on to his land and taking the pine. He related several cases which had come under his notice, among them one of a man who after having settled ten years on a lot had sold the pine, believing he had a perfect right to do so, but the Government took proceedings against him.

Mr. DEROCHE said that there were similar cases of hardship which had come before his notice in the riding which he represented. There was a strong feeling on this subject in the back country. Great difficulty had been met with in getting patents; and those who were best qualified to be come settlers were frequently found to go elsewhere to look for land, failing to obtain any encouragement here. He wished the motion was enlarged to the whole Province.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT had no objection to give returns as to the Crown Lands; but the details asked by the hon. member would entail considerable delay, and could scarcely be necessary to his purpose. The Government purposed to prepare a statement of all lands not settled in the older districts and to place them in the market, but they would not take that course with the new districts. He (Mr. Scott) did not approve of issuing timber licenses for districts offered for settlement. The question was a difficult one to deal with in view of the large revenue derived from that source by the Government. The policy of the Government would be to endeavor to prevent any clashing between the interests of the settlers and the lumberers. He did not believe that those two interests were in any way hostile.

Mr. ARDAGH said his object in asking for those details was to know what lands had been sold; however his object would be attained if the returns which the hon. gentleman promised were supplied.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said that there had been cases of pretended settlers coming upon the land and making small clearances, simply for the purpose of obtaining possession of the pine; he thought it was the duty of the Government to prevent that from being done. In his experience of the Crown Lands Department he could call to mind no case of a *bona fide* settler being harshly or unjustly treated.

Mr. DEROCHE gave the name and address of the case he had referred to; and added that if he were to relate all the cases of hardships that he had heard of, he would take up all the time of the House. He believed the hon. member for Niagara had done what he conceived to be his duty while in charge of that department, but nevertheless dissatisfaction had existed.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that it was impossible to give decisions between claimants in these cases without giving offence to some. The claims of settlers required most favorable consideration, but they were not entitled to what they had not been promised. He knew hundreds of cases of men who had gone on to lands unfit for settlement in order to get possession of the timber. It would not do to adopt a wholesale system without regard to the real nature of the lots. The policy proposed by the late Government was to offer the timber licenses by public auction, so as to secure their full value. Much of the land included in the free grant had valuable timber, from which large amounts of revenue might be obtained; as a proof of that they found that the public auction of the timber licenses fetched the large sum of \$118,000 for the mere permission to cut the timber, in addition to undertaking to pay double dues upon the logs. Was it right that a hardwood lot and a pine lot should be placed on the same terms, when the timber on the former would have no marketable value and the latter would be worth perhaps a thousand dollars? He would recommend the hon. Commissioner to study the matter carefully before promising what he would find perhaps he could not perform.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the notice issued by the late Government referred to the whole of the free grant districts.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS explained that the lands in question were not pine lands.

Mr. GRANGE thought the licensing system was detrimental to the settlers, whose rights should be protected.

Mr. CALVIN thought a hint might be taken from the practice in the States, where the land was sold by public auction. He wanted to see common sense and fair play manifested in dealing with the land.

Mr. BARRINGTON said that as there had been a long discussion he did not intend taking up the time of the House. He wished, however, to corroborate from his personal knowledge the remarks made by the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands and endorsed by the hon. member for Niagara as to men taking up lots in the lumber districts

simply for the purpose of obtaining the lumber and afterwards abandoning the land, knowing at the time of obtaining such lots that they were perfectly valueless for settlement. Having travelled through sections of the lumbering regions where such transactions had occurred, he could speak from a knowledge of the facts.

Mr. ARDAGH mentioned the details of several cases he had referred to.

Mr. BOULTBEE said there had been too much attention paid to the lumbering interests and too little to the settlers. He could not see that it was advantageous to the country to be in such a hurry to strip it of the timber. The real value of the timber was not obtained by the country under the present regulations. At present the lumbermen went through picking out the best timber and leaving the rest to be destroyed by fire. He thought this ought to be stopped.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON explained that the late Government had adopted the policy of not encouraging the application for large timber limits.

Mr. BOULTBEE said that he had meant no reflection on the late Government.

The motion was then agreed to.

CROWN LANDS IN NORFOLK.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON moved for similar returns with respect to public lands in the County of Norfolk; and explained the nature of the information he desired to have placed before the House.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said that unless there was some special reason for asking these returns he should object to the motion.

Mr. CAMERON thought it was not unreasonable to ask this information. Returns of a similar nature had previously been agreed to.

Hon. Mr. WOOD explained the circumstances under which those returns had been granted.

Mr. McCALL would like very well to see full returns of these lands, but he objected to the names of purchasers, with the arrearages, &c., being given. The country was greatly indebted to the hon. member for bringing the matter before the House.

The motion was then agreed to, and, it being six o'clock, the House took the usual recess.

After Recess.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Mr. SPRINGER moved the second reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws having reference to Mutual Insurance Companies doing business in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. BLAKE thought it would hardly be advisable to press the Bill through the House this session.

Mr. LAUDER said there was much necessity for legislation, but he thought it should be taken in hand by the Government.

The Bill was then read a second time and referred to a Select Committee.

The Daily Telegraph.

TORONTO, TUESDAY, FEB. 6, 1872.

SECOND PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, Feb. 5, 1872.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 8.30.

PETITIONS.

The following were presented:—

Mr. MCGIBBON—From County Council of Huron, praying for certain amendments to the Municipal Law.

Also from the same, for the apportionment of the surplus.

Also from the same, for certain amendments to the Agricultural Law.

Mr. COOK—From the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, praying for certain amendments to the Jury Law.

Mr. SINCLAIR—From the City Council of Kingston, praying for certain amendments to the Assessment Law.

Mr. MCCALL—From Geo. Wisen and others, of Port Dover, praying for the establishment of an Inebriate Asylum in Ontario.

Mr. FERGUSON—From Thos. R. Ferguson and others, of Simcoe, for the incorporation of the South Simcoe Eastern Section Railway Company.

Mr. OLIVER—From the Town Council of Ingersoll, praying for an Act to enable them to increase their debt.

Mr. SPRINGER—The petition of J. Hoffman and others, of Berlin, praying against any extension of the Preston and Berlin Railway.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. OLIVER—Bill to incorporate the Town of Tillsonburgh. Referred to Private Bills Committee.

Mr. WOOD, (Victoria)—Bill to affirm certain by-laws of the Midland Railway. Referred to Committee on Railways.

Mr. MONK—Bill to amend the Act relating to Municipal Institutions of Upper Canada. Second reading ordered for to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON—Bill to incorporate the Toronto Dairy Company. Referred to Private Bills Committee.

Mr. BOULTBEE—Bill to incorporate the Western Ontario Railway Company. Referred to Committee on Railways.

Mr. WILLIAMS, Hamilton—Bill to incorporate the Hamilton and North Western Railway Company. Referred to Committee on Railways.

Mr. OLIVER—Bill to incorporate the Port Burwell and Ingersoll Railway Co. Referred to Committee on Railways.

Mr. CROSBIE—Bill to incorporate the Yorkville Waterworks Co. Referred to Private Bills Committee.

Mr. MONTEITH—Bill to amend the Act of the Stratford and Huron Railway Co. Referred to Committee on Railways.

Mr. PATTERSON—Bill to incorporate the Toronto and Yorkville Waterworks Company. Referred to Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. RYKERT—Bill to enable Canada Bolt Company to establish their chief place of business at Toronto and for other purposes. Referred to Committee on Private Bills.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON—Bill to amend the Municipal Institutions Act of Upper Canada so far as it relates to the City of Toronto. Referred to Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. RYKERT—Bill to revise and amend the City of Toronto Waterworks Act. Referred to Committee on Private Bills.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON—Bill to authorize the Corporation of the City of Toronto to construct Waterworks. Referred to Committee on Private Bills.

OMEMEE & BOBCAYGEON RAILWAY.

The report of the committee on the Bill to incorporate the Omemee, Bobcaygeon and North Peterborough Junction Railway Company, was brought up by Mr. Williams (Durham), and the amendments read by the Clerk. The report was then adopted, and the third reading appointed for to-morrow.

CITY OF LONDON DEBT.

The House went into committee of the whole, Mr. Macdonald (Leeds), in the chair on the Bill to consolidate the debt of the city of London. The Bill was reported and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.