

mation was intended for the benefit of intending settlers. No such particulars had been published since 1867. He complained of the way in which settlers were treated, and the difficulties they were under through inability to sell timber. Lumbermen he believed, preferred to buy from a settler than to be subject to the caprice which often ruled in the Crown Lands Department. But if a lumberman went on to a settler's land, and took away timber and sold it, he was fined no more than a settler who made a mistake as to his timber, though the latter might be an actual purchaser. He proceeded to give several instances of this kind, and quoted from a pamphlet entitled "Hard Times in Ontario," the facts contained in which were confirmed by his own experience for a considerable number of years. The pamphlet showed the highly unsatisfactory manner in which the Crown Lands had been managed. He read letters from settlers to corroborate his statements.

Mr. DEROCHE said that the same difficulties that existed in Mr. Ardagh's locality existed in his (Mr. Deroche's). The policy pursued by the late Government on the question of the timber limits was very unjust to the settler. He knew a case where an old man and his family had made a settlement, and fulfilled all the settlement duties, but the late Commissioner of Crown Lands, the member for Niagara, (Mr. Richards) had placed the land under license. He (Mr. Deroche) had gone to the present Commissioner of Crown Lands and laid the case before him. He (Mr. Deroche) was very happy to say that though the Commissioner had been charged with being in the interests of the lumbermen, yet he saw the injustice of this case, cancelled the license and issued the patent. (Hear, hear) This policy would be very popular with the people of the back settlements, for in times past the Government did not do justice to the settlers. (Hear, hear) He thought it was absurd to spend large sums of money to induce immigrants to enter the country, when the policy of the Government during the past ten years had been to drive away our young men, who were the backbone of the country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SCOTT said that as far as the vacant lots for sale by the Crown Lands were concerned, the Department should be always ready to furnish the widest information. The part of the motion relating to the lands sold, their price, and so on would he thought cost a great deal of labour in the Department to furnish the information, and he did not see how it would serve the hon. gentleman's purpose. There was no complete list now, he was sorry to say, in the Department of the lots open for sale; but it was the intention of the Government to publish a list of those lots for sale in the older sections. In the newer sections it would not be desirable to force a large number of the lots into the market without conditions of settlement. He had no objection to the rest of the motion. With regard to the whole policy of the Department in dealing with the settlers and the timber dealers, he had, in years past, taken part in the discussion on the subject, and he believed those who heard or read his remarks would agree with the principles he laid down. Assuming that the timber interest was one of great magnitude to the country, they must all admit that it was an interest worthy of consideration at all times. The lines where the lumbermen's rights began, and those of the settlers ceased, were, he thought, very easily fixed. He had never favoured the issuing of licenses in the settled portions of this Province, nor was he aware until very recently that the practice had been carried on to a very great extent. His idea was that the timber licenses covered areas very much to the north of the settled portions. Of course, when the settled portion of the country was limited to the banks of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, the licenses were issued for lots more or less in proximity; but it was generally found that, as the settlers advanced, the lumbermen retired. Now, they had opened up free grant lands to the north of the settled lands, and he had at no time imagined that it was intended to introduce licenses into that district. (Hear, hear) It was not a policy which he should have endorsed, but one which had very much better not have been undertaken. In the sale of that territory during the latter part of last year, \$118,000 were realized. But it was not desirable in any sense, where they intended to throw in a body of settlers, to have this clashing between the interests of the lumbermen and the settlers. He thought if they really got an honest settler, who intended to settle on his land, if no public rights were involved, it would not be going much too far to give him the timber. He was not now speaking of what might be the policy of the Government, but of what had been the policy pursued in the past. The difficulty had been to know who was the honest settler. (Hear, hear.) Many quasi settlers had taken up land, paid one instalment, taken off the timber, and then abandoned the lot. That was a practice which had prevailed to a considerable extent. The policy of the Government should be to prevent these two interests clashing in the future, to define the line as to the country that was fit for settlement, and the country that was fit exclusively for timber. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ARDAGH said that the reason why he inserted that part of the resolution to which the Commissioner had taken exception, was that he wished to know what quantity of lands had been sold. He knew a number of cases in which settlers refused to make improvements, because they did not know the moment lumbermen would come in and dispossess them. He was concerned in the lumber interest himself, but did not think that interest and the interest of the settlers should clash. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SCOTT said he would repeat again that it would not be the policy of the Government to issue licenses for isolated lots in the older settlements where the lots are occupied.

Mr. RICHARDS said he could not answer charges unless they were specifically made. He was aware that it had been the habit of persons to settle upon good lands, make away with all the good timber, and then leave in his own experience the Government had never dealt harshly with bona fide settlers; in some cases, indeed, the Government had refunded the money to settlers.

Mr. DEROCHE said if he attempted to speak of half the cases of hardship in his county he would occupy the whole of the time of the House. There was a great deal of dissatisfaction in his riding, and he believed justly. In fact the member for Niagara was very unpopular in Addington, and it would have been very unsafe for that gentleman to have come into the riding during the canvass. He believed, however, that the people did not judge Mr. Richards justly.

Mr. CAMERON defended the policy of the late Government in respect to the rights of settlers. He argued that it was necessary, in the case of lands not fit for settlement, to see that they were not denuded of timber by those who were not bona fide settlers. He said that it was intended by the late Government to offer the isolated lands at auction. The late Government had put a considerable portion of the timber land under license, in order to preserve the timber to the country, and make the settler keep his obligations.

Mr. SCOTT said that it was the intention of the Government, at the earliest possible moment, to ascertain the position of the isolated lots. As far as the issuing of licenses by the late Government was concerned, he thought the Government, in respect to the Free Grant Territory, ought to have discriminated between lands fit for settlement and those not fit. The late Government had put under license the whole of the Free Grant Territory, irrespective of the character of the country.

Mr. GRANGE believed the licenses had been favoured to the detriment of the settlers. He thought the dues should be raised, and a return obtained of the amount of lumber exported from the country.

Mr. CALVIN said that if he had the chance of paying for the timber three times the amount of what was now given for it, he would be the richest man in Upper Canada. (Laughter.) He was in favour of selling the land for cash and not on credit.

Mr. HARRINGTON corroborated the remarks which had been made with reference to persons taking up land for the purpose of obtaining the timber, and afterwards abandoning the land, having known, when they obtained the lots, that they were perfectly valueless for settlement.

Mr. ARDAGH said if Mr. Richards wanted particulars, he could be supplied. There was one case—lot 22, concession 5, in his riding (North Simcoe). In this case, the settler lost, on the lumbermen's difference between \$141 and \$112. There was no difficulty in the Crown Lands Department keeping a check on the sale of timber, as far as the settlers were concerned. Mr. Ardagh proceeded to give other instances of injustice done to settlers.

Mr. CAMERON asked Mr. Ardagh if he meant to say that anyone connected with the late Government had engaged in timber buying.

Mr. ARDAGH said that one of the employees of the late Government, Mr. Miller, had attended the Muskoka sales with the view of influencing the sales. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOULTBEE considered the Government policy in the past on this point had been most erroneous. Every effort appeared to have been made to facilitate the lumberman, as if the policy of the country was to denude the country of its valuable forests, to put fortunes into the hands of a few men. It would be better for the timber to be consumed in a more gradual manner. The small mills, which manufactured the timber used in the country, had no such facilities as those afforded to the larger dealers. He thought if the latter were allowed no more privileges than the former, a great advantage would be obtained.

Mr. CAMERON said the late Government decided not to grant any more timber limits in the more settled territory, but in the free grant districts it was desirable to keep the timber under license.

The motion, as amended, was carried.

LANDS IN NORFOLK.

Mr. CAMERON moved for an address 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 purchaser or locatee, and the present claimant, together with the amount of principal and interest due on each parcel.

Mr. SCOTT had no objection to the motion if the hon. gentleman would consent to strike out all the particulars as to the price, as had been done in regard to the last motion. If motions like these were to pass, the Department would require to double its staff.

Mr. CAMERON said the motion was similar to those introduced by the members of the present Government in past sessions.

Mr. BLAKE pointed out that, if the prices of these lands were reduced, the Government would furnish information as to the original cost of the lots.

Mr. McCALL said that the returns to which the member for East Toronto had referred had only embraced the lots open for sale, not those which had been sold. It was unreasonable to expect the Government to furnish a return of the arrearages. There was a strong feeling on this question in the western and northern portions of the Province, and it was felt to be a struggle between the agricultural portion of the community and the lumbermen. He hoped the Government would introduce a more liberal policy than that hitherto pursued. He thought it would be well if licenses were withdrawn altogether, and only permission given from year to year to cut timber.

The motion was allowed to stand, and was then carried.

It being six o'clock, the House rose.

MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

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

Mr. BLAKE had no objection to the Bill going to a Select Committee, but he did not suppose it would receive a final reading this session, and it would become the province of the Government to undertake a Bill on this subject.

Mr. RYKERT was glad to hear that the

Government held it to be their duty to take this important matter in hand.

Mr. LAUDER also thought the Government should introduce the subject instead of a private member.

Mr. SPRINGER explained that this Bill had been agreed on by the different Insurance Companies.

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

LAW REFORM AMENDMENT.

Mr. BETHUNE moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Law Reform Act of 1868.

Mr. CAMERON thought the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee as other amendments might be desirable.

Mr. BLAKE said this Bill had a special object. If other amendments were needed, they should be introduced in a separate measure.

Mr. MACDONALD (Leeds) supported the Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time and referred to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

RAILWAY APPROPRIATION FUND.

The report of the Committee on the Bill to make further provision touching the appropriation of the Railway Fund, was received. The third reading fixed for to-morrow.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACT.

The report of the Committee on the Bill to declare the true construction of an Act passed in the 13th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and chaptered five, intitled "An Act against Fraudulent Deeds, Alienations, &c," was received, and the third reading ordered for to-morrow.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. BLAKE said that the Treasurer would deliver his financial statement to-morrow evening. Mr. Blake then moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at eight o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Blake—On Wednesday, motion, that for the remainder of the session Government notices and orders have precedence on Thursdays.

Mr. Blake—On Wednesday, leave to introduce a Bill, entitled "An Act to amend the law as to the fees of Registrars."

Mr. McLeod—Notice, that, when the House is in committee of the whole on Bill No. 22, he will move to restore section 29 of said Bill.

Mr. Merrick—That he will in committee of the whole House on Bill No. 4, entitled "An Act to empower certain persons to appear as agents and act as advocates in the Division Courts in the Province of Ontario," move that the following clause be inserted in said Bill:—"That any party wishing to revive a judgment in said Division Court can, upon filing with the clerk of said Court the necessary affidavit, procure an execution against goods and chattels, without the endorsement of the county Judge, upon said affidavit, and an order can immediately issue for said execution."

Mr. Bykert—Enquiry of the Government if one John W. Lewis, a land valuator, has been dismissed by the Department of Crown Lands; and if so, when; also whether any and what instructions were given to said Lewis to value lands in Houghton Centre.

Mr. Fardee—On Wednesday next, to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to enable Railway Companies to provide the necessary accommodation for traffic over their railways, and to amend the Railway Act."

Mr. Wood, (Victoria)—On Wednesday next, to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Assessment Act of 1869."

Mr. McKellar—That the House will on Thursday next resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the following resolution:—"That it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to direct the payment out of the consolidated revenue of the sum of not less than dollars to the County Inspector of Schools for every Mechanics' Institute which he may inspect and report upon to the Commissioner of Agriculture."