

running of traction engines on public high ways; also praying that the Bill for the separation of the city of Toronto from the county of York do not pass.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Mr. Rykert—To amend the Assessment Act of 1869.

COMMON SCHOOL LANDS.

Mr. R. W. SCOTT moved that the House do, on Thursday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the following resolutions:—

1. That in the opinion of this House it is expedient that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council should have authority to reduce the price of common school lands sold previously to 1st July, 1867, where it shall appear that such lands have been sold at prices beyond their fair value, and that such prices remain unpaid; and also to make such abatement as may appear equitable and just of the arrears of interest on the unpaid instalments of the purchase money of any common school lands sold by the Crown previously to 1st July, 1867: Provided that such reductions and abatements be made only in respect of and in proportion to the share or interest of this Province in such lands, and the price thereof, and do not in anywise extend to or affect the share or interest of Quebec in such lands, or the price thereof.

2. That each such reduction and abatement should be effected by paying out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the amount thereof to the parties entitled thereto, on his paying the full amount of the purchase money and interest.

3. That before any such reduction or abatement be made, the land in respect of which such reduction or abatement is proposed should be examined and valued by one or more inspector or inspectors, appointed for that purpose by the Lieutenant Governor in Council or by the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

4. That such reduction and abatement should be confined to cases in which the purchaser from the Crown, or the person claiming under him, is in occupation of the land, and is an actual settler thereon, or on land adjacent thereto.

5. That it is expedient to provide that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, by an order in Council, confer upon the Commissioner of Crown Lands authority to make such reduction or abatement as aforesaid, subject to the provisions of these resolutions, and subject to such provisions, if any, not inconsistent with these resolutions, as may be embodied in any Order in Council.

He would postpone any observations on the subject until the House went into committee on Thursday.

Mr. BLAKE said he had been desired by His Excellency to recommend these resolutions to the consideration of the House.

THE APPROPRIATION OF THE RAILWAY FUND.

Mr. BLAKE moved the third reading of the Bill to make further provision touching the appropriation of the railway fund.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACT.

Mr. BLAKE moved the third reading of the Bill to declare the true construction of the Act passed in the 13th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and chaptered five, and intituled, "An Act against Fraudulent Deeds, Alienations, &c."

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

OMEMEE, BOBOYGEON, AND NORTH PETERBOROUGH RAILWAY.

The Bill to incorporate the Omamee, Boboygeon, and North Peterborough Junction Railway Company was read a third time and passed.

THE CITY OF LONDON DEBT.

The Bill respecting the debt of the city of London was read a third time and passed.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY.

On the order for receiving the report of the committee on the Bill to further secure the Independence of the Legislative Assembly,

Mr. BLAKE moved that the report be not received, and that the Bill be referred back to a committee of the whole, with instructions to amend the 3rd clause by adding thereto the words, "But the Executive Council shall not at any time consist of more than six members."

Mr. CAMERON admitted that under the Confederation Act the Lieut-Governor might appoint more than five advisers ("hear, hear," from Mr. Blake;) but they were to be appointed in a particular way. Mr. Blake had violated the Constitution in accepting the position of Executive Councillor, and then forming an Administration without being one of the five Executive officers named by the Confederation Act. The amendment he (Mr. Cameron) would now move was "That in case any member of the Legislative Assembly hereafter becomes a member of the Executive Council, his election shall be void and his seat vacated. "The object of the amendment was this—that his Excellency might appoint more than six advisers, but the affairs of the country should be governed by five executive officers as before; and that any member of this House who becomes an Executive Councillor should vacate his seat.

Mr. BLAKE pointed out that, while the member for East Toronto was so anxious not to limit the prerogative of his Excellency to appoint as many advisers as he should please, he was anxious to provide that no more than five of those councillors should be responsible to the country by holding seats upon the floor of that House. He was not surprised that the leader of a party that kept a Solicitor General in office for years when they could not get a constituency for him should go further,—that a gentleman who had again and again announced his admiration of the old system of irresponsible government and the Family Compact, should ask them at this time of the day, in the year 1872, at this era of constitutional progress, to affirm the view that His Excellency should be permitted to choose members of his Council who would not only not be required, but would not be allowed to have seats in that Chamber. (Hear, hear) What did the amendment of the member for East Toronto mean? It meant that a secret conclave advising His Excellency in secret, without owing any responsibility to the people, might

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TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7.

SECOND PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 6.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

By Hon. Mr. Blake—The petition of the County Council of Bruce, praying aid to railways; also praying for certain amendments to the Assessment Law.

By Hon. Mr. Wood—The petition of the County Council of Brant, praying for certain amendments to the Assessment Law.

Also—The petition of Alexander Reid and others, of Welland, praying for certain amendments to the Railway Act (Canada).

Also—The petition of S. W. McMichael and others, praying that no further acquisition of territory be granted to the Long Point Company.

By Mr. Read—The petition of the County Council of Peterboro', praying for certain amendments to the Jury Law.

By Mr. Boulton—The petition of William H. Thorne and others, of York, praying for the establishment of an insane asylum.

By Mr. Farewell—The petition of William McIntyre and others, of Hamilton; also of Samuel McAllister and others, of Toronto; also of David J. Johnson and others, of Cobourg; also of H. Montgomery and others, of Millbrook; also of D. W. Malcolm and others, of Townsend; also of W. Cummings and others, of Goderich; also of Hector Baxter and others, of Woodville—severally praying for the repeal of the superannuation clause in the School Act.

By Mr. Patterson—The petition of the County Council of York, praying that compensation may be made to certain persons for road allowances granted by them; also praying the repeal of the Act regulating the