

ed had taken place. The Government also proposed to introduce a separate measure to deal with the question of fees.

Mr. CAMERON contended that the separations of the Registry Offices which had taken place under the late Government had been perfectly justifiable. The Government seemed to be afraid of themselves. He did not object to the second reading.

Mr. MACDONALD (Leeds) concurred in the remark of the Premier that the registry office should be located in the county town.

Mr. WOOD said the impression had prevailed throughout the country that the separation of the offices which had been referred to had taken place, to secure some local party support. (Hear, hear.) He fully concurred in the view that the registry office should be situated in the county town and was sure the member for East Toronto also agreed with the remarks of the President of the Council. No one could show that the public were inconvenienced by the establishment of registry offices in ridings.

After a few remarks from Mr. LAUDER, Mr. FAREWELL, and Mr. SCOTT (Grey), Mr. BLAKE replied.

The discussion was continued by Mr. GIBSON.

Mr. MERRICK said that it appeared by the present Bill that the Government were asking that the power conferred by the late Registration Act on the Government to divide ridings into registration districts, be repealed; and he saw no particular object in this, as the President of the Council had stated that in the event of good cause being shown any member could introduce a Bill to the House asking that such should be done, and if the Government thought it necessary they would assist in passing it. Now, of course, without their consent no such Bill could pass; and, therefore, if the Executive themselves thought such registry office required they could, under the present law, direct the same to be done. The Hon. President of the Council also stated that it was better that the registry offices should be in the county towns only, where the sheriff's and treasurer's offices were also situated. Now, in his (Mr. Merrick's) own riding the registry office was not in the county town, but was twelve miles from where the sheriff's and treasurer's office is now situated, so that in that case the argument was not applicable. It had also been stated that where the public feeling was in favour of such a change it should be to a certain extent considered. Now, in his opinion, local rights and desires should be observed and carried out. He had the honour of presenting a petition from a majority of the reeves and deputy-reeves of his riding in favour of establishing a registry office, and they represented the people, and as such their application was entitled to consideration.

It being six o'clock the House rose for recess.

KINGSTON AND PEMBROKE RAILWAY.

After recess,

The House went into committee on the bill to confirm and legalize certain bye-laws by the Corporation of the city of Kingston, the county of Frontenac, the county of Renfrew, and the village of Pembroke, granting aid to the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company; Mr. Galbraith in the chair.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PORT HOPE.

The House went into committee—Mr. Merrick in the chair—on the bill to enable the trustees of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, in Port Hope, to sell and convey certain lands.

The committee reported the bill without amendment. Third reading on Monday.

ONTARIO MINERAL LANDS MINING COMPANY.

Mr. BETHUNE (in the absence of Mr. Prince) moved the second reading of the Bill to incorporate the Ontario Mineral Lands Mining Company.

The consideration of the Bill was postponed.

BELLEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Dr. BOULTER moved the second reading of the Bill to appoint trustees for certain land in the town of Belleville, for the purposes of the Presbyterian Church in connection with the Church of Scotland, and to authorize said trustees to borrow money on a portion thereof.—Carried. Committee of the whole on Monday.

TORONTO, SIMCOE AND MUSKOKA JUNCTION RAILWAY.

Mr. CAMERON moved the second reading of the Bill to amalgamate the Toronto, Simcoe and Muskoka Junction Railway Company, and the North Grey Railway Company, under the name of The Northern Extension Railway Company. Carried.

REGISTRY OFFICES IN RIDINGS.

The debate on this Bill was resumed.

After some further remarks from Mr. Cameron, Mr. Ferguson, and Mr. McCall,

Mr. MACDONALD (Cornwall) defended the conduct of the late Government, and stated that petitions had poured in from the county of Middlesex in favour of the change which his Administration had made.

Mr. MACKENZIE denied this statement, and added that the county councils were adverse to the change. As an instance of the inconvenience attending it, he alluded to the case of the township of Delaware, the people of which had to travel 25 miles to enquire into the titles, and 25 miles another way to register their instruments. The present Bill was for the purpose of remedying an inconvenience under which the whole country laboured.

Mr. ROBINSON denied the assertion of the member for Cornwall that the people of Kingston had petitioned in favour of the late measure. He knew that the member for Cornwall had sent for the present registrar of Kingston to come to him to Toronto. (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. Perry and Mr. Farewell supported the Bill, which was then read a second time, and referred to a Committee of the whole on Monday.

SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of Supply on the Estimates; Mr. Wood (Victoria), in the chair.

Mr. McCALL objected to the increase of the Speaker's salary from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Mr. BLAKE said that the Government believed the salary of the Speaker was inadequate. They believed the salary of the Speaker of the sole House in the Province of Ontario ought to be more than \$1,000 a year, especially when the salaries of each of the Speakers in the Local Parliament of Quebec was \$2,400 per annum. (Hear, hear.) The Speaker was the first commoner in the Province, and, in addition to this, was expected to extend hospitality to members, and to distinguished strangers. The House ought to be informed that the increase in the salary cost the country nothing; and it was in this way. The salary of the late Attorney-General was \$1,000 a year; but the salary of the present Attorney-General was only \$3,200 a year. The salary was thus reduced \$800, and the half of it given to the Speaker. In other words, six Ministers now cost less than five formerly; and of the saving of the \$800, the half went to the Speaker. And thus there was no loss to the public. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAMERON said the late Attorney-General's salary had been increased to \$4,000 because he had to fulfil the duties of Premier. He did not wish to speak with any ill feeling towards the hon. gentleman who held the office of Speaker, but the law provided that that gentleman should receive \$1,000 a year. He considered him one of the best-paid officers in Ontario. He should not have objected to any proposal to increase the salaries of ministers to more than \$3,200, because they had onerous duties and large responsibilities.

Mr. CUMBERLAND thought the Clerk of the House ought to have received a large salary.

Mr. McCALL said there was an increase of over \$5,000 in the total for the five departments and the miscellaneous.

Mr. MACKENZIE pointed out that in the Department of Agriculture and Public Works, he had added more than \$5,000 to the estimates for officers who were really salaried officers in the department, but whose salaries did not appear in the estimates before, as they were charged to the particular works on which they were engaged. In the Attorney-General's Department there was a charge of \$800 towards the establishment of a law library, and \$151 over expenditure, for which they had to take a vote of credit. In the Secretary and Registrar's office there was also a small sum overdrawn, and another of \$189 for the Public Works office. There was also the salary of Mr. Bridgeland, a very efficient officer, whose salary did not appear at all in the estimates last year. So there was a very considerable decrease in the estimates instead of an increase.

Mr. BLAKE said there was also an item of \$1,000 for extra writers, appointed to enable the Government to comply with the requirements of 31st Vict., cap 20, sec 82, an Act which had not been carried out before, it seemed, and which required this extra staff to prepare documents and furnish information. The member for Algoma had displayed his usual earnestness in his speech. He (Mr. Blake) thought that gentleman had mistaken his vocation. He was born for the stage (Loud laughter.) He had said something about statesmanship. Well, if this was the statesmanship gentlemen opposite were going to display, if this was what they were going to rally the country upon, let them rally to their hearts' content. (Hear, hear.) They would not get another word upon this subject from Ministers.

Mr. E. B. WOOD said it was quite true, as the Treasurer had stated, that certain persons were employed in the Public Works Department at a salary of \$5,000. This was never submitted to the Council. The names of these persons should certainly be put in the estimates.

Mr. CUMBERLAND—Why did you not put them in the estimates?

Mr. WOOD—I was not told about them by the Commissioner; and would not go round all the departments taking stock.

Mr. CUMBERLAND—Why did you not find them out as the present Treasurer has done?

Mr. WOOD—The Commissioner never told me.

Mr. BLAKE—But our Commissioner told us.

Mr. WOOD said the items concerning these \$5,000 would be found in last year's accounts. The difference between the late Commissioner and himself was that he (Mr. Wood) held that these persons should be paid through the Treasurer's office by cheque.

Mr. CARLING explained—The officers to whom allusion had been made had not been put on the permanent staff of his department, and were paid by the day, and the charge made to the different works on which they were employed. The amounts paid to these officers were returned to the Treasurer once a month, and had appeared in the Public Accounts of last year.

Mr. CUMBERLAND attacked Mr. E. B. Wood, and advised the Government to beware lest there might be amongst their number an Iscariot. (Cries of order.)

Mr. WOOD denied indignantly that he had any wish to cast blame upon his late colleagues. In its financial arrangements the late Government was altogether without blame, and its history in that respect would go down with credit to posterity. The imputation that had been thrown upon him by Mr. Cumberland—that he had not dealt fairly by his late colleagues—was a base calumny, and he threw it back in Mr. Cumberland's teeth. (Applause.)

Mr. FAIRBAIRN deprecated the sort of recrimination which had taken place. Was it always to go on? He thought it was time for it to cease. The conduct of the member for South Brant had been of the most manly character. The wealthy Province of Ontario was well able to pay its public officers handsomely.

Mr. CAMERON proceeded to question nearly every item under the head of legislation, the discussion of which occupied a great length of time.

Mr. BLAKE, at the conclusion of Mr. Cameron's remarks, said he was

astonished to find, after the acute observation displayed on the other side of the House, that the hon. gentleman had not noticed an extra charge of \$3 for the three messengers. He would explain. They were paid \$1 a day each, and it was Leap-year. (Laughter.)

The item for legislation, amounting in gross to \$116,940 60, was passed after some further discussion.

On the item for Colonization Roads—\$79,705 40,

Mr. CAMERON complained that the length of certain roads was not given.

Mr. BLAKE pointed out that these roads were unexplored, and the vote was for the purpose of exploration. The length of unexplored roads it was somewhat difficult to give.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa) explained the details of the item.

Mr. LAUDER, in a long speech, indulged in personal abuse of the Government.

Mr. CAMERON asked the Government for explanations.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa) reiterated explanations several times.

Mr. CAMERON wished the debate on this item adjourned.

Mr. BLAKE could not see the necessity for this course, for all necessary explanations had been fully given, and there was nothing more to discuss with any profit to the House.

Mr. CAMERON, at twenty-five minutes to twelve, rose to speak against time.

Mr. CORBY said that rather than have this item passed, he would sit there till morning. (Cries of "Oh!")

Mr. RYKERT, at twenty minutes to twelve, attempted to obtain a "count-out," but failed, as a quorum was present.

Mr. MACKENZIE said it was evident that the policy of the Opposition was delay and obstruction.

Mr. CAMERON again rose and repeated the questions he had several times previously put to the Government.

Several members spoke, while others on the Opposition side threw paper missiles across the benches.

At four minutes past twelve, Mr. MACDONALD (Leeds), asked if it was in order to sit on Saturday.

The CHAIRMAN ruled that it was in order.

Mr. CAMERON wished to appeal to the Speaker. (Cries of "No, no," and "order.")

The Opposition side of the House became most disorderly.

Mr. CAMERON, at ten minutes past twelve, moved that the committee report progress.

Mr. GIBSON appealed to the member for East Toronto not to keep members waiting out of their beds any longer.

The item for colonization roads was then passed, and reported to the House.

Mr. BLAKE moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at a quarter past twelve.