

voted had been paid.

14 Mr. GALBRAITH deprecated the sectional feeling which seemed to be so strong in the House. They ought to be a united Province, and to feel a united interest. The policy the Government intended to pursue would be satisfactory to the railway companies, and ought to be satisfactory to the members of that House. He understood that, before any order in Council was brought before the House to be voted upon, the Government would be prepared to give every information as to the railways to be aided. The Government could take no course which would be more acceptable to the country. With regard to the \$100,000 a year, he considered that every dollar expended upon railway enterprise would be worth three times more to the country than it would if invested in any other way, and bearing any other rate of interest.

Mr. COYNE was in favour of opening up the back settlements, although he represented a front county that had no special interest in the question of aiding railways. He was prepared to take the pledge of the Government that the question of the municipal loan fund would be settled at the earliest time possible, consistent with the public interests. Believing that the best interests of the country would be served by the policy of the Government in this matter, he would give it his support.

Mr. CODE was willing to support the Government if they showed that the extra grant of \$400,000 was necessary. He opposed the proposal to pledge the credit of the country for twenty years at \$100,000 a year.

Mr. BOULTBEE was greeted with shouts of "Question," but at ten minutes after 12, proceeded to criticise the speeches made during the debate, and to review the conduct of the late Government on the railway question. He supported the proposal to grant another \$400,000 for railway aid, but opposed the grant of the remaining \$1,200,000. He believed they would one day bitterly regret the extent to which they were now encouraging railway enterprise.

Mr. BLAKE said references had been made in the course of the debate to the position of the Government with regard to this question, and the hope had been expressed that nothing would occur to shake the stability of the Government. He would say that nothing would occur with reference to this discussion or to any amendments that might be proposed that would in the slightest degree shake the stability of the Government, but it was not because the Government did not make this a Government measure. It was entirely out of the question that, announcing as they had done that they believed the honour and good faith of this country required that they should take the course they proposed, they should do otherwise than make the carrying of this measure a Government question. They must stand or fall by the measure which they considered essential to the interests and honour of the country. He had confined himself, in the information he had given, to those railways which had received assurances from the late Government, but there were many others which were, no doubt, deserving of the consideration of any Government and came within the scheme. With reference to the Municipal Loan Fund, it was their opinion that every section of the country ought to be considered. Although it was true that a large portion of the revenue was derived from the new districts, and that from that and from their difficulties they required special assistance, still there was also a large portion of the revenue derived from the older counties, and they too were entitled to assistance. The subsidy was granted in proportion to population, and the older counties bore a large proportion of the indirect taxation of the country. In any scheme which involved an adjustment of the surplus in relation to the Municipal Loan Fund, regard should be paid to the rights and interests of all sections of the country. The member for South Lanark had said that if it were clearly proved that it were necessary, he would condescend to grant an additional \$400,000. The counties of Lanark and Renfrew had got \$800,000 of the public debt invested in one railway, and yet one of their representatives objected to granting half that amount to the whole country. The member for Algoma had said that this money was going to be voted *en bloc*, to be expended without details. That gentleman was either very dull or very unfair. All that was proposed to be done by the House was, to say that a certain sum should be set apart to be expended on such schemes and in such a manner as the House approved. This measure would place it out of the power of any Minister of the Crown to pledge the faith of the country to any railway without the sanction of the Legislature. It was utterly impossible for the Government to bring down any complete scheme of all the railways that would require and deserve aid. It would be an injustice to all those until they knew what fund the House would decide to vote for railway aid. All that was wanted was to create the fund; not a shilling of it could be spent without the sanction of the House. The Government did not consider the addition of \$400,000 sufficient, and therefore the question they had to consider was the best way, most consistent with the preservation of the surplus, to provide a fund sufficiently large to enable the Government to carry out the spirit of the Railway Act. They considered that the plan of granting an annuity of \$100,000 a year for twenty years was the most economical and satisfactory plan that could be devised. Railway companies would be able to sell the bonds of the Government at a low rate of interest, and they would practically be more benefited than if they got the hard cash, because they could put two per cent. of Provincial coupons along with five or six per cent. of their own bonds, and their own bonds would thereby be floated at a cheaper rate. That being the case, he believed it would actually be practically more beneficial to the companies, because it would furnish them with a greater basis of capital than \$2,000 or \$4,000 a mile in hard cash. While \$100,000 a year for twenty years would be equivalent to two millions to the companies, it was only \$1,100,000 odd to the country. And yet it was argued that any amount might be voted

in hard cash, but they must not mortgage the credit of this country to the extent of \$100,000 a year for twenty years. If there was a man who had so little faith in the future of Ontario as to doubt its ability to pay \$100,000 a year in enterprises from which they were getting a return for investment of a far larger amount of capital, he would recommend him to emigrate at once. He was amazed that any patriotic man should have suggested the slightest doubt as to the propriety of making a wise expenditure, involving the investment of an amount of capital altogether out of proportion to the amount expended by the Government. The special funds of the Province alone would more than pay the \$100,000 a year without touching the surplus. The Government wanted to establish a fund to prevent the necessity of saying to some of these new roads, "You are out of the pale, you are a little too late," or else to divide the amount voted between the whole, but in such paltry sums as to be of little use to any. He did not think the House would approve of either of these plans. If there was only one other alternative, and that was the proposal of the Government (Loud applause.)

The House has divided. The numbers were y as, 19; nays, 56.

YEAS—Messrs. Cameron, Carling, Code, Cumberland, Giffard, Guest, Lauder, McCall, McCallum, Macdonald, (Cornwall,) Macdonald (eds), Merrick, Monk, Monteth, France, Richards, Rykert, Tooley, Wilson.—19.

NAYS—Messrs. Ardagh, Baver, Baxter, Bethune, Blake, Boulter, Boulton, Calvin, Christie, Clarke, (Norfolk,) Clarke (Wellington), Clomens, Cook, Corby, Coyne, Craig (Glengarry), Craig (Russell), Crooks, Crosby, Deacon, Deroche, Fairbairn, Farewell, Farlays, Fitzsimmons, Galbraith, Gibbons, Gibson, Gow, Graham, Hamilton, Harrington, Hodgins, McCall, McKellar, Mackenzie, McKim, McLeod, McManus, McKim, Oliver, Patterson, Taxton, Perry, Bead, Robinson, Scott (Grey), Scott (Ottawa), Sexton, Sinclair, Smith, Springer, Webb, Williams (Barham), Williams, (Hamilton,) Wood, (Brant).—56.

The amendment was therefore lost.

Mr. Grange paired for the amendment, with Mr. Wood, (Victoria,) against it.

The question was then on the original motion that the Speaker leave the chair.

Mr. GRANGE rose at five minutes after one, and, after some remarks, moved in amendment:—

That all the words after "that" be struck out, and the following substituted therefor, in the first resolution: "considering that the sum of \$1,500,000 has been already set apart from the funds of this Province in aid of railways under the Act of last session; and, considering that the Dominion of Canada, of which we form a most considerable part, has invested in railways about \$47,000,000, and has given credit of \$100,000,000 for the proposed Pacific Railway; and, whereas many of the counties, while large contributors to the Exchequer, will not in the least derive any benefit from railway allotment; and, considering the fact that many of the counties believe that any further distribution of the surplus should be made equitably among the counties, based either on assessment on population, to be used by them either in payment of their present indebtedness, for the erection of public buildings, or for making good macadamized thoroughfares leading from the back country, due precaution being taken for the proper application of the money, and provision being made that the allotment to any county indebted to the Municipal Loan Fund should be applied on account of such indebtedness,—in view of these facts, this House cannot at present entertain any further appropriation of the public funds of this Province in aid of railways."

Members of the Opposition called for adjournment, and persisted in refusing to allow the motion to be put, and after some discussion Mr. Blake consented, and the House adjourned at 1:35 a. m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. Blake—On Saturday—Resolution: That after Monday next there shall be on every day, save Saturdays, two distinct sittings, the second sitting to commence at half-past seven p. m.

Mr. Deacon—That on motion for the reception of the report of the committee on Bill number 64, "For the prevention of corrupt practices at municipal elections," he will move that the report be not now received, but be referred back to committee of the whole House, with instructions to amend the same, so as to provide that the trial of all proceedings to be had or taken against any candidate elected at any municipal election, and of all other proceedings against any person for any violation of the said Act, shall be had and taken only before the Judge of the County Court of the county within which the municipality is situated for which such candidate has been elected, or within which the alleged violation of the said Act took place.