

given up for nothing.

Mr. WOOD (Brant) said that the absolute intrinsic value of this surrender was of little moment in matters of this kind. It was absurd to say that no advantage should be given to one part of the country that needed it unless advantages were given to other parts that might not need it. No people could be prosperous who adopted this one-sided and narrow principle.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa) said that it was neither honourable nor just to say that the first settlers in what were afterwards declared to be free grants—men who made the roads and the clearings—would be made to pay, while after settlers were asked to pay nothing. The member for East Toronto would have no following in this House when he argued that the first settlers should have no relief (Hear, hear.) It was impossible to collect the money from these first settlers. It was also impossible to keep the older settlers on their grants, with the free grants beside them. In one case that had lately come under his notice, out of 93 lots that had been sold, the buyers of 67 of these lots had removed upon the free grants. (Hear, hear.)

After some further discussion the resolutions were adopted, the amendment being ruled out of order, on the ground that it involved a charge on the public revenue which had not previously received the sanction of the Executive.

Mr. SCOTT introduced a Bill founded upon the resolutions.

Second reading on Monday.

SUPPLY.

On motion of Mr. MACKENZIE the House went into Committee of Supply on the supplementary estimates.

A discussion arose as to the item for super-annuated teachers, \$4,000.

Mr. J. S. MACDONALD took credit to himself for his School Act of last year.

Mr. BLAKE said that he would call upon the member for Frontenac to say how many school-houses were closed in his county. He would also ask the member for North Simcoe how many school houses he found closed in his late canvass. (Hear, hear.) The Government, however, had decided to give the measure of the late Government a trial for another year.

Mr. J. S. MACDONALD warned the Premier against interfering with the action of the Superintendent of Education in reference to the measure of the late Government.

Mr. BLAKE—I have been requested by the Superintendent to propose certain amendments to that measure, but have refused. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. McCALL agreed with what had been said as to the inefficiency of our school arrangements. He did not think they would be improved till the Council of Public Instruction was abolished.

Mr. E. B. WOOD said that the member for Cornwall gave all the credit of our school system to the Chief Superintendent, instead of to the people. (Hear, hear.) The member for Cornwall, who had gone to a primeval school, knew that the system in existence then was better than the present one. The Province of Ontario taxed itself at the rate of two million dollars a year for its school system, and in addition, received \$418,000 out of the public money; and of this sum \$50,000 were expended in connection with the Education office, city of Toronto. What was there to be shown for this? The public records showed that the state of education was lower now than it was fifteen years ago; and the pupils were not taught reading, writing, and arithmetic as they should be taught these subjects; and now another text-book was added to the large number with which the children were literally crammed, so that their intellectual growth was stunted, and that was a book on moral obligations. (Laughter.) He supposed that they would next have a book on metaphysics for young children. The intellectual life of the children was crushed out, and their minds were filled with trash and nonsense. He hoped that common sense would be introduced as a controlling element in our public schools instead of fancy and theory.

Mr. CAMERON said the Act of the last session increased the number of studies prescribed for the schools and the member for Brant was a member of the Government that introduced that Act.

Mr. WOOD said he had said nothing against the Act. It was not the law but the regulations issued for governing the schools that were at fault.

Mr. CAMERON proceeded to say that the discontent against the regulations was fostered by certain parties for political purposes.

Mr. DEROCHE said he had received letters from his county to the effect that there was very general dissatisfaction there with the school, principally with regard to the great power given to the inspectors. He believed that the evil of teaching too many subjects in our public schools existed to a considerable extent. He considered that in many country sections our school system was not what it was generally supposed to be, and referred to instances that had come under his own observation as an illustration of some of its defects.

Mr. MACDONALD (Leeds) condemned the change of the time of examination of teachers that had been made, one time being earlier than teachers had at first been given so understand. He was led to believe that this was done in the interests of the Normal School pupils. He also condemned the frequent changes of the text-books in schools and the number of studies prescribed.

Mr. WOOD wished to say that he had said nothing against the Chief Superintendent of Education. That gentleman appeared to have more time to defend himself and assail other people than any other man in the community. But he did say that the efficiency of our public schools was greatly impaired by the multiplicity of subjects of study prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction.

Mr. PERRY thought that the Government had acted wisely in deferring action on the education measure of last session, until they had seen more of its workings. The remarks of the member for East Toronto were particularly unfortunate. That gentleman had stated that it was wrong to mix up politics with education. He should have known

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TORONTO, MONDAY, FEB. 26.

Parliament of Ontario.

SECOND PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION

Saturday, Feb 24.

The SPEAKER took the chair at one o'clock.

DOUBLE SITTINGS.

Mr. BLAKE moved that till the close of the session there be two sittings of the House daily. Agreed to.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. LAUDER said, before the orders of the day were called, he wished to draw the attention of the Speaker to a misprint in one of the city papers. It was reported that the Speaker had called him (Mr. Lauder) to order, and had stated that if he did not preserve better order he would be obliged to name him. This was an incorrect report of what the Speaker had stated. There was considerable disorder in the House, but he was not personally called to order.

Mr. SPEAKER said there had been a great deal of disorder in the House and interruptions during the debate. This had been brought to his notice by gentlemen on both sides of the House, and he had stated that if it was persisted in he would be under the necessity of naming the parties who were making the noise. He did not mention the gentleman's name.

AID TO RAILWAYS.

Mr. BLAKE moved the reception of the report of the Committee on the resolutions respecting aid to railways.

Mr. RYKERT said he had no intention to prolong the debate on the subject, but would merely ask for the yeas and nays.

The House divided: with the following result:—Yeas, 31; nays, 7.

YEAS—Messrs. Ardagh, Baxter, Blake, Baultier, Calvin, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cook, Corby, Craig, (Russell), Crooks, Deacon, Deroche, Fitzsimmons, Gibson, Gow, Graham, Hamilton, Harrington, Hodgins, McKellar, Mackenzie, McRae, Faxton, Read, Robinson, Scott (Ottawa), Saxton, Webb, Williams, (Hamilton), Wood (Brant),—31.

NAYS—Messrs. Cameron, Lauder, McCall, McCullum, Macdonald (Leeds), Merrick, Rykert,—7.

Mr. BLAKE introduced a Bill founded on the resolutions. It was read a first time; second reading on Monday.

DUAL REPRESENTATION.

Mr. BLAKE moved the reception of the report of the Committee on the Bill to render members of the House of Commons ineligible as members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

The report was received; and the Bill was ordered to be read a third time on Monday.

SETTLERS IN FREE-GRANT TOWNSHIPS.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa) moved the reception of the report of the Committee on the resolutions respecting settlers in the free grant townships. It ran as follows:—

Resolved,—That in the opinion of this House it is expedient that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council should have authority to remit the sums due to the Crown by bona fide settlers still in occupation of the lands in all the free grant townships (save and except the townships of Alice, Grattan, Wilberforce and Mindon), and to place such settlers in the same position as those who settled in the free grant townships under the free grant regulations.

Resolved,—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 remissions 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.

Mr. DEACON hoped that the Government would not exclude the townships of Alice and Wilberforce from the benefits conferred on other townships. There were a great many Germans in these townships, and agents had come from the Western States to persuade these people to leave for the States. The soil of both townships was very poor, and the land had been valued when the snow was a foot deep on the ground. Under these circumstances he hoped that the Government would not exclude these townships.

He moved an amendment to the effect that the names of the excluded townships,—Alice, Wilberforce, Grattan and Mindon,—should be struck out of the resolutions.

Mr. SCOTT said that when he introduced his resolutions it appeared to the Government that the sales in these four townships had been made at a much earlier period than in the other portions of the free grant settlements, that the best lots were taken up, and that they were worth the price paid for them. Since then the Government had received information that a large number of the lots in Mindon had been abandoned. The Government would consider any hardships that the settlers in this and the other townships might labour under, and next session they would be prepared to recommend some measure of relief if they found that hardships did exist there.

Mr. CAMERON argued that the Government should not extend relief to these settlers unless relief were extended to others; and, in the latter case, it would be necessary to show how much of the revenue was to be