

owners and rate-payers of the townships, were presented, and might be found among the records. However, the matter was not proceeded with, and he (the speaker) felt that these people had now a right to be heard. He had no interest in the matter one way or the other, but he felt that justice should be done the parties who felt called upon to present these petitions, for they had suffered inconveniences long enough. What they asked was that three townships in the south and rear of Grey—Normanby, Egremont, and Preton; Minto, Arthur, and Luther, in Wellington, and the villages of Mount Forest, Arthur, and Harrington, should be formed into a new county, to be called Palmerston. He understood that the township councils would send in petitions to the same effect. The division of territory proposed would make a square, compact county. It was not proposed to set it aside at once for judicial purposes, nor was any county town to be yet chosen. They wished to remain attached to Wellington until proper buildings were erected, and they were in a proper position to enter a proper discharge of duties. The question arose, whether the petitioners ought to have the measure of relief asked for. He thought their request was a very reasonable one, and should be granted. As situated at present, the people were greatly inconvenienced, and if told that they should wait another year, until the Government brought in a measure of their own, it might be the means of further postponing relief for even longer than a year. The population of the municipalities was 26,000 odd, and the real and personal value of the property was four million dollars. The distances from about the centre of this territory to other principal places surrounding it were as follows:—Walkerton, 30 miles; Berlin, 40 do.; Guelph, 45 do.; Owen Sound, 47 do.; Stratford, 50 do.; Goderich, 55 do.; and Barrie, 65 do. The nearest was therefore 30 miles, and the others from 40 to 65 miles. Had not these people been sufficiently punished? Should their inconveniences be continued still longer? The House ought to have such a division of territory made as would subserve the best interests of the country. He certainly thought that the petitioners ought to have a place midway between the towns named where they could conveniently transact their county business.

Mr. LAUDER explained that he was neither opposing nor advocating the passage of the measure.

Mr. CAMERON said if the Government were going to resist the passing of any such Bills it would only be wasting the time of the House to discuss them.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that a good deal could always be said in favour of Bills of this kind, and it was quite probable that the district to which the honourable member for South Brant had referred deserved consideration, but the matter required deliberation. The Government was responsible for the legislation of the House, and as this matter was of an important nature and one that would be brought before it, the Government thought that time should be taken to consider it fully. They thought it was that the principal divisions should correspond with the other divisions; and the conclusion arrived at by the Government was that it would not be desirable to have any legislation this session. These were not the only places to which his attention had been called. He had received deputations from several parts of the country, and the answer which he had given was to the effect which he now gave in the House. There was more or less opposition to the establishment of each of the counties asked for. He hoped by next session to bring in such a measure as would settle the whole question.

Mr. WOOD said the hon. gentleman would see the position in which he stood in this matter. The gentlemen who originated this proposal had gone to a very great expense. He had told them to go and see the Premier on the subject. If they had done so and had received the same answer that was given to the Attorney-General to-day they had taken their trouble for nothing, and had themselves to blame. They had gone to a good deal of expense in maps, &c., and he could not withdraw the Bill without seeing them. At the same time he was quite satisfied they would then ask for a discharge of the order.

The matter then dropped.

#### BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. HODGINS—To amend the Act respecting the Credit Valley Railway.

Mr. WELLS—To incorporate the Lynn Manufacturing Company.

Mr. OLIVER—To amend the Act to consolidate the debt of the town of Ingersoll.

Mr. RYKERT—For the further encouragement of manufacturing in Ontario.

Mr. BETHUNE—To authorise the Courts Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Chancery to admit Robert Wardell as a practising solicitor therein.

Mr. RYKERT—To amend the Election Act.

Mr. CAMERON—To amend the Acts relating to the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway Company.

Also, Bill to incorporate the Toronto Fuel Association.

Mr. HODGINS—To incorporate the Toronto Financial Corporation.

Mr. FAREWELL—To establish certain side lines in the township of Whitby.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Hamilton)—To incorporate "the home of the friendless" in the city of Hamilton.

Mr. WOOD (Victoria)—To declare the mode by which certain side lines in the township of Emily shall be run.

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa)—To widen Broadstreet, city of Ottawa.

Mr. CRAIG (Russell)—To legalize and confirm certain a survey in the township of Cumberland.

Mr. WEBB—To amend the Act relating to the incorporation of the Princeville Railway Company.

#### LICENSE LAW.

Mr. McCALL asked if it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill during the present session of the Ontario Parliament to improve the present License Law so as more effectually to repress intemperance.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that it was the intention of the Government to introduce during the session a short Act containing one or two improvements to make the License Law more effectual.

#### DOMINION ELECTIONS.

Mr. RYKERT moved for copies of all correspondence by members of the Government with public officials in Ontario, relative to their interference in the elections for the Dominion Parliament in 1872, with copies of all instructions given said officials, with the names and residence of all persons who have either resigned or been relieved of their positions in consequence of their interference in said elections, or in consequence of their being candidates at said elections.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that the motion of the hon. member for Leeds, passed the other day, embraced the information wanted.

Mr. RYKERT understood that the motion referred to had included only four classes of the Government officials.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that the correspondence on the subject did not even extend to those classes.

The motion was then withdrawn.

#### FREE GRANT TERRITORY.

Mr. BAXTER moved for copies of all Orders in Council since January 1, 1871, relating to the free-grant territory; also, the number of lots located and the number of settlers who have settled in the several townships of said territory.—Carried.

#### REAL ESTATE.

Mr. HODGINS moved, on Friday next—Address for a return from the Clerk of each County Court, showing:—

1. The number of petitions filed in each such Court for the partition and sale of real estate under the Consolidated Statute of Upper Canada, chap. 80, and the Statute of Ontario, 32nd Victoria, chap. 33, and the number of cases in which sales have been made.

2. The number of suits in which the interests of unknown infants, absent and lunatic parties, in such real estate were sold.

3. The securities taken and amounts paid into Court or invested, and in what securities, under each of the said Acts, or any statutes or explanations regarding the non-payment into Court or non-investment of such securities.

4. Statements of money, bonds, mortgages, or investments published pursuant to the 39th section of the said Consolidated Statute and 42nd section of the said Ontario Statute.