

them the largest possible aid, which it was proposed to do by loaning the farmers of the country money at the low rate of five per cent. interest. The Imperial Parliament took an extraordinary part in the drainage of property in the United Kingdom, and was highly pleased at the result, which conduced to the best interests of the country. Those who had had any experience in drainage, could appreciate the remarks he had made. If even a larger sum had been proposed to be devoted for drainage purposes, there would have been no occasion for alarm, for he was not one of those who was afraid of the future of this country. He was not afraid that the revenue was going to decrease, and that we must look to direct taxation; and in regard to the timbered lands of the Province, to which reference had been made by the hon. member for South Bait, he would remark incidentally, that he should prove to the House, at the proper time, that he based his argument as to the wealth of these lands on something more than mere words; and so far as the expenditure of the Crown Lands Department was concerned, that expenditure could be increased with great benefit. He believed that, if he by an outlay of 5 per cent. could get 95 back, he should do so. He could say that the timbered lands spoken of were capable of producing a million of dollars revenue for the next twenty-five years. He trusted that there would be no further opposition to the Bill before the House, for the measure, if passed, would be productive of much good to the community, and the debentures to be issued would be saved from the brokers.

Mr. MACDONALD said that what they contended for was that this fund should be invested once, and when the money came back to the Government it should go into the treasury and be subject to the vote of the House. The Government should not be allowed to invest this money over and over again till it amounted to an expenditure far exceeding the original grants. With regard to the argument that this was the same Bill as last year, and that no objection was taken to it then, he remembered that it looked as if this provision of the Bill last session had been passed by means of something like a trick (oh!), and this point was not observed. Upon the 8th of February, 1872, the resolution was passed in Committee, similar to this resolution, except that the words "at any one time" were not in it. They were, however, in the Bill, and it was possible that members, supposing the Bill was an exact counterpart of the resolution, had allowed it to pass without particular examination. He wished it to be understood by the House and the country that in proposing this amendment he was not opposed to a judicious use of the public money, in draining the wet lands of the Province. Such a use of the public money would always as it had done in the past, command the support of his side of the House. The amendment did not interfere with the principle of the measure.

Mr. LAUDER also wished it to be understood that he was not opposed to assisting in the drainage of lands. On the contrary, he was in favour of it, and the insinuation of the Commissioner of Public Works was not well founded.

Mr. FRASER said if gentlemen opposite were in favour of allowing the use of \$200,000 for drainage purposes, why should they oppose allowing the Government to keep that amount invested continually until otherwise ordered by the House. He could not understand the argument of the member for North York. He had supposed the case of one million dollars being invested at first, and it being re-invested as it came in, the amount invested would ultimately amount to four millions. That argument was not sound; because at no one time would the Government have in investment more than one million dollars. It would simply be an investment from time to time of one million and no more. If hon. gentlemen opposite thought it was right to invest \$200,000 in drainage, what possible harm could result from allowing that amount being continually invested under the control of the Government until otherwise ordered by the House? There was no possible reason why the power to invest \$200,000 should not remain with the Government. It would still remain with the House to say at any time that the investment should not be continued. The hon. member for Niagara had laid great stress upon the supposition that political influence might be brought to bear from time to time upon the Government, in order to avoid the payment of the \$20,000 advanced; and yet the Government, of which that gentleman was a member, passed an Act whereby not merely \$20,000 might be advanced to one municipality, but the whole \$200,000.

If the present Government would be subject to improper influences, where not more than \$20,000 was advanced to any one municipality, surely the danger would be far greater when an unlimited sum could be granted. The fact was, where only \$20,000 was advanced to one municipality, there was really no danger of influence being brought to bear upon the Government to relieve the municipality from that small amount. If there was any such danger at all, it was infinitely greater under the Act of the late Government. He presumed that the Government would take power to charge the lands benefited, leaving it to the municipalities to collect it. The member for Niagara had taken credit to the late Government for having made the amount advanced made a charge upon the lands benefited, and claimed that that provision would prevent political influence being brought to bear upon the Government by municipalities. That argument was not sound, because if political influence could be used in one case it could be used in another. The fact that only a portion of the municipality was charged with the amount advanced would not prevent the other parts of the municipality uniting with their neighbours to make a demand upon the Government, so that if any political influence was to be dreaded it was much more to be dreaded under the Act of 1869 than under the present measure. Some remarks had been made by the member for South Grey with reference to section 20, which provided that the Commissioner of Public Works shall investigate and report upon the propriety of the investments applied for. That hon. gentleman had stated that this section would give the Government power to invest the money in various places, according to their political requirements. But he would ask that hon. gentleman if he could have that provision struck out, and allow every municipality to get aid that applied for it without any investigation by the Government as to the propriety of the investment. If the hon. gentleman would not propose that, what alternative course could he propose?

Mr. LAUDER remarked that what he had stated was that under this measure the Government would have the same power to prefer townships as the Government of Sandfield Macdonald had to prefer railways under the railway Act.

Mr. FRASER did not see that the present Bill was so stringently drawn that it would be a violation of the Act itself to report improperly upon any application. It was not so under the Railway Act. With regard to the amendment proposed by the member for South Leeds, he thought it would be of no benefit at all, seeing that he approved of the principle of the Bill. If it was wise to invest the money in the first instance it was equally wise to keep it invested until otherwise ordered by the House. (Cheers.)

The amendment was then put and declared lost on a division, and the report of the Committee was received.

On motion of Hon. Mr. McKellar, the House then went into Committee, Mr. Hodgins in the Chair, passed several clauses of a Bill to authorise the investment of certain moneys in debentures to be issued for the construction of Drainage Works by municipalities, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again on Monday.

It being six o'clock the House rose.

After Recess,

MECHANICS' LIENS.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS moved the House into Committee, Mr. Clarke (Centre Wellington) in the chair, on Bill to establish Liens in favour of mechanics, machinists, and others, which Bill, after a tedious discussion in reference to details, and some minor alterations, was concurred in.

DISPUTES BETWEEN MASTERS AND WORKMEN.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CROOKS the House went into Committee on the Bill to facilitate the adjustment of disputes between masters and workmen. The Bill was agreed to without amendment, and the Committee rose and reported it. Report received.

INSTITUTES FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB AND BLIND.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE moved the second reading of the Bill respecting institutions for the education and instruction of the deaf and dumb and blind in Ontario. In doing so the hon. gentleman stated that the section of the statute referring to these institutions denominated them not as educational institutions, but as asylums. The Government judged it would be better to enact a special law for these institutions, correcting any false impressions which might be abroad