

whether this was a Private Bill.

Attorney-General MOWAT said he agreed with the Speaker that the Bill was a Private Bill.

Mr. MACDONALD then moved that the order be discharged.—Carried.

MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

Attorney-General MOWAT said he wished to state, before the adjournment, that since he had announced his intention to declare to the House the Government policy respecting the settlement of the Municipal Loan Fund indebtedness, there had been a perfect rush of deputations or notices that deputations were coming. He had not thought it right to refuse these a hearing before making his statement to the House. He therefore would not be able to make that statement to-morrow, as he had hoped to do. He might add that he hoped to be able to get the papers on which their policy was based all printed and in the hands of members. These would be necessary to a proper appreciation of the statement he would have to make.

Mr. CAMERON said it was exceedingly to be regretted that so important a measure should be delayed. He was under the impression that the Government had had this measure under their attention for more than a year. They ought to be able to frame a measure for the whole country, and no number of deputations ought to change the view of the Administration with reference to what they believed to be right in the interests of the whole country. Instead of that being the case, it seemed that hon. gentlemen had no view upon the subject, or if they had it was so imperfectly formed that a deputation from one section might change it to-day, and another deputation from another section change it back again to-morrow, and so it would be the end of the session before the House would know what the Government scheme was in this important matter.

Atty-Gen. MOWAT said the hon. gentleman misstated the whole matter. He seemed to ignore the fact that there were a large number of debtors to the Municipal Loan Fund, and perhaps no two cases stood in precisely the same position. They had to deal, not only with the surplus, but with the debtors to the Municipal Loan Fund. He believed the general feeling was that all those debts were not to be exacted to the full extent. It was necessary, therefore, to have information from each municipality, and to know the grounds upon which each case rested, before coming to a certain conclusion. They had endeavoured carefully to consider the evidence that applied to each case. In the return brought down last session, prepared by the member for South Brant, he gave a statement in regard to each defaulting municipality. Anybody who read that statement knew that there was a great variety in the position of the different municipalities—the purpose for which the money was borrowed, the application of it, &c—all of which was very important in determining how these different municipalities should be treated. But he had received since that a great mass of information, which was not before the hon. member for South Brant, and he would not be doing his duty if he had not considered all this information. They did not mean to act blindly in this matter if they could help it. They meant to state their policy after they had considered everything that the municipalities thought had a bearing upon their case. It was in order to give all the municipalities an opportunity of laying their case before the Government that he had delayed making his statement.

Mr. CAMERON said it was very unfortunate that the hon. gentleman had not invited these municipalities to come at a much earlier period of the session, and not wait till the business of the session was so far advanced that very little time would be left to consider this important measure.

Attorney-General MOWAT said there had been no intimation given to any of the municipalities since the session commenced. They had not chosen to give this information earlier. He did all he could to collect information before the session began, and he did not expect that these additional representations would be made. They might have been slow in submitting their information, but they should not be excluded on that account.

Mr. CAMERON—Can you state what day you will be ready to make your statement?

Atty-Gen. MOWAT—I cannot name the day.

RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE laid on the table a supplementary return of all correspondence

between the Government and the municipalities with reference to the Municipal Loan Fund.

Also,—A supplementary return of all correspondence between the Government and the Canada Car Company.

Also,—A return of a statement of fees paid by high constables and special constables in Ontario.

Also,—A return of all correspondence in respect to the candidature of Ontario officials for the House of Commons.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. CAMERON asked when they would be favoured with the Public Accounts. The session was already considerably advanced, and if the Committee on Public Accounts were to discharge their duties effectively they ought to be able to commence without delay.

Attorney-General MOWAT, in the absence of the Treasurer, said the Public Accounts had been in the hands of the printer for some time, and the Treasurer had been urging on the work. He expected it immediately, but he could not name the exact day when it would be ready.

The House then adjourned at 10:45.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Farewell—On Wednesday next—A Bill to provide for the licensing of public houses and the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Hon. Mr. McKellar—On Friday next—That the resolutions as to drainage works, agreed to on the 31st of January last, be referred to the Committee of the whole House on Bill No. 133.

Mr. Wood—On Wednesday next—That the return to the address of this House (Sessional Papers No. 22), brought down on the 5th of January, 1871, respecting immigration, public debt and assets, be referred to the Committee on Printing, with the view of having the same printed and made a sessional paper of this Session.

Also, On Wednesday next—Address for a statement, 1st, showing what drainage works had been completed and what yet remain to be completed, and at what date they will be completed, under 33 Vic., chap 2, Act of 1869, and out of the fund of \$200,000 by that Act set aside for drainage, and the aggregate cost of each work, and what will remain of that fund after the completion of all contracts entered into under it; 2nd, copies of the instruments drawn up by the Commissioner of Public Works under the third section of the said Act; 3rd, copies of awards made by arbitrators under the said Act; 4th, a statement of the moneys charged, and from what date, according to the provisions of the said Act on lands subject to drainage charges where the drainage has been completed.

Dr. Clarke—On Wednesday next—A Bill entitled, "An Act to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in the Province of Ontario as a beverage."

TUESDAY, Feb. 4.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

COBOURG TOWN TRUST.

A discussion took place as to the sufficiency of notice given of the application to be made to the House for the passage of a Bill respecting the Cobourg Town Trust, Mr. Rykert and Mr. Bethune claiming that proper notice had been given as reported by the Standing Orders Committee, Mr. Gifford maintaining a contrary opinion. After some conversation, it was agreed that the petition should be *pro forma* referred back to the Committee.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were introduced:—

Mr. OLIVER—Respecting Fair Grounds in county Oxford.

Mr. CAMERON—To incorporate the Toronto Gravel Road and Concrete Company.

Mr. McKELLAR—To incorporate the Erie and Huron Railway Company.

Mr. CODE—To amend the charter of the Bathurst and Fay River Macadamised Road Company.

Mr. BETHUNE—To incorporate the Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Mr. WELLS—To incorporate the Toronto Opera House Company.

Mr. GIBSON—Respecting the Methodist New Connexion Church of Canada.