

officers to hold office during pleasure." Now Queen's Counsel were Provincial officers, and if the Government had the right to appoint any Provincial officers it certainly had a right to appoint officers to do that part of the Queen's business which belonged to us. Since this question had been before the House on a former occasion it had been ascertained that Queen's Counsel were appointed in England under the Great Seal and not under the Privy Seal. In this case the Queen's Counsel had been appointed under the seal of the Province.

Mr. CAMERON said if the argument of the Attorney-General went for anything it showed that there was no necessity for this legislation at all. If the power already rested with the Lieut.-Governor, there was no necessity for this measure. He argued that Queen's Counsel were not essential in the conduct of the business before our Courts, and therefore the inference drawn by the Attorney-General that the local governments must necessarily have the power to appoint them was not correct. He contended that the section of the Confederation Act referred to by the Attorney-General applied only to heads of departments, and not to prerogative officers like Queen's Counsel. He considered the Bill offered a direct affront to the Governor-General.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS argued that the Queen's authority could be exercised in Ontario by the Legislature or the Executive in all matters which came within the scope of its jurisdiction under the British North America Act, and, therefore, having control of the courts of justice, Ontario had by analogy power to appoint any officers in connection with those courts in the name of the Queen. He said that in the *Times* of February 5 there appeared the appointments of several Queen's Counsel under the Great Seal, showing that they were constitutional appointments.

Mr. E. B. WOOD said that he thought arguments could be used on both sides of this question, and suggested that it would have been well on so important a constitutional point to have brought the matter before the courts for a decision.

Mr. Cameron's amendment was then put and lost, the Bill was reported, and the report concurred in.

PRECEDENCE AT THE BAR.

Attorney-General MOWAT moved that the House go into Committee on his Bill respecting precedence at the Bar, and explained that he proposed to amend the Bill by giving ex-Solicitors-General of Upper Canada precedence over Queen's Counsel.

The House went into Committee, and passed and reported the Bill with that amendment.

CANADA CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Mr. CAMERON asked if the Attorney-General had considered the propriety of appealing against the judgment of the Vice-Chancellor, in the case of the Canada Central Railway. This was a most important matter, involving land to the value of \$3,000,000.

Attorney-General MOWAT would be glad if the hon. gentleman would state in what particular the case was not properly submitted. He had consulted the counsel who were employed in the case, and they were all satisfied that nothing was omitted that should have been urged.

Mr. CAMERON said, among other points, there was one which was not argued at all.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that was because all the counsel considered the point perfectly clear against the Crown. He was of opinion that the case should be reheard before the three judges, and steps were now being taken to have it so reheard.

Mr. CAMERON observed that if that were done further evidence ought to be brought in. There were several points upon which the evidence was insufficient. It did not appear from the evidence whether the work had been begun at the proper time.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that he had conversed with Mr. Christopher Robinson, Mr. McLennan, and Mr. Scott, all of whom had been acting for the Government in this case, and they all expressed themselves as being confident that all the points which would be advantageous to the Government had been thoroughly argued.

The House adjourned at 12:10.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Hon. Mr. Crooks—On Friday next—Bill respecting Taverns and Shop Licenses.

Mr. Rykert—On Friday next—Address for a return.

1. Of all correspondence with the Dominion Government in reference to the chain allowance and ordnance land along the Niagara river.

2. Copies of all papers and documents in the Crown Lands Department in reference to said lands.

3. Copies of all Orders in Council respecting any lease or leases of any part of said land.

4. Copies of all leases of any part of said land at or near Niagara Falls.

TORONTO, THURSDAY FEB 27.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

Ever since Mr. Treasurer Crooks unfolded his financial statement, the agitation of the Tory organs has been terrible to witness. In the anguish this fearful exhibit has inspired, all other sorrows, tribulations, and "outrages" are forgotten. "Speak now" is silent; "Proton" hardly falls from a single lip; the public domain, ravaged and wasted by the reckless and irresponsible Scott, is projected no longer; the Brantford gardener is left out in the cold; the "Elgin frauds" are forgotten; nay, even the "deserving young man" is without a friend to remember his affliction. All—all is overlooked, condoned, or *dis-remembered*, in face of the awful prospect of national deficit instead of a surplus, ruin instead of prosperity, and, on the top of it all, a fast hastening Nemesis in the garb of direct taxation. 'Tis wonderful that, with all this there is no panic in the streets; no withdrawal of Private bills before the House; no eager enquiries and bated breath as to when the end of the world may be expected as the only chance of relief. Or rather, let us say, it would be wonderful, if people generally were not so used to the diurnal dose of alarms and outrages from the same quarter that the influence of the alarmists is neutralized, and folks pass round the word "all right," and take courage until the next explosion.

We will put before our readers a few figures taken from the Public Accounts and Estimates in order to show what is the true state of affairs, and how little foundation there is for this clamour. In the first place, let us see what was the difference in the financial position of the Province of Ontario on the 31st December, 1872, as compared with its condition at the end of 1871.

On the 31st of December, 1871, the balance to the public credit stood as follows:—There was invested or on deposit at interest a sum of \$3,637,979 32; there was cash on current account \$172,985 84; and, up to that date, the money spent on public buildings, the property of the Province and forming part of our assets, amounted to \$1,203,662 80, showing a total sum of \$5,019,627 96.

Now, then, for the balances at the end of 1872. They were as follows:—Money invested or on deposit at interest, \$4,297,979 32; cash in account current, \$352,991 24; amount expended on public buildings, \$1,475,427 75; and already paid away on behalf of the Railway Aid Fund, \$372,786. This shows a total of \$6,499,184 31, OR AN IMPROVEMENT IN ONE YEAR UNDER THE MAN-