

was true, find that loans were obtained from the Government for special purposes, but the money had often been used for quite different ones. He could not see upon what ground the Premier entertained the idea that this scheme was to settle a debt of \$3,000,000. The hon. gentleman said that the Municipal Loan Fund debt was to be settled upon the basis of the debt of 1859, but upon looking over the schedule they found that he wandered away from that rule entirely. With respect to the aid proposed to be given to railways, the speaker said that the Premier knew that railways built years ago cost four, five, and six times as much as they do now, yet he declared that old municipalities must be satisfied with \$2,000 per mile. He (Mr. Rykert) held that there was no justice in such a provision as that. The hon. gentleman forgot also that railways that had recently been built had benefited the municipalities that had invested in them, and besides this, that these railways had been aided by public money. The speaker contended also that the fact that different municipalities had benefited from the construction of colonization roads, for which they had voted since Confederation over \$900,000, and on which they had expended about \$800,000, should be taken into account. He went on to say that some municipalities that had borrowed money from the Municipal Loan Fund had expended it in constructing railways that had cost as much as \$15,000, \$20,000, and \$30,000 per mile, and yet in nine cases out of ten they had been disappointed in not getting such returns on their investments as they had had a right to expect. Another injustice of this scheme would be the granting of \$2 per head, simply according to population, when they had the fact staring them in the face that some of the municipalities had shown greater enterprise than others, and had consequently been obliged to tax themselves more heavily. It was true that in the old county of Lincoln they had the Welland Canal, but that was a work that had built up Montreal, and helped Toronto, and every town east of it, and it was by the enterprise of the inhabitants of the Niagara district that it had been constructed. It was true that from the Welland Canal the people of St. Catharines had water power, but they had had far better water power from the old canal. He contended that railways frequently injured the towns through which they ran, and said that St. Catharines had been injured by the Great Western. It was only towns which were the termini of railways that were particularly benefited by them. The Premier had himself said that Prescott had been injured by railways. Another point in the scheme to which the speaker took exception was that with reference to assessment. He said that under the present assessment law almost every town in the Province was assessed so low that it had a large debt hanging over it. Even the township of Ops was not assessed for what it should be. He maintained that they should consider the money paid out for school purposes ordinary expenditure, just as much as the money spent by a municipality for any other purpose. If he (Mr. Rykert) understood the speech and the resolution of the Premier, the \$2,000 per mile would simply be allowed to those municipalities indebted to the Municipal Loan Fund.

Mr. MOWAT—I did not mean that I meant it to apply to all municipalities.

Mr. RYKERT said that that, at any rate, was what appeared from the scheme as originally submitted. He also opposed that portion of the scheme with respect to those railways which had been constructed since Confederation, but which had not received assistance under the Railway Aid Act. Referring to the question of railways, he said that instead of the Welland Railway benefiting the towns along the Niagara frontier it had brought ruin and desolation to them. Then there was the Cobourg and Port Hope Railway, which had been injuriously affected by legislation.

Mr. MOWAT—What is the legislation?

Mr. RYKERT—Take the granting of the charter from Port Hope to Peterboro' alone. It being six o'clock the House rose.

#### EVENING SITTING.

At 7:30 the Speaker took the chair for the evening sitting.

#### AGRICULTURE AND ARTS ACT.

On motion of Hon. Mr. McKELLAR, the House went into Committee on the Bill to amend the Agriculture and Arts Act, which was reported with an amendment proposed by Mr. Monk, and read a third time.

#### PUBLIC AND HIGH SCHOOL LAWS.

Attorney-General MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Public and High School Laws. He explained that the appointment of half the members of the Council of Public Instruction should lapse in two years. The term of office of half the members of the Council was proposed to lapse in one year, but after that, in two years. It was proposed also that there should be three members of the Council elective—one by the masters of Public Schools, one by the masters of High Schools, and one by School Inspectors. He believed that much of the opposition to the Council as at present constituted arose from the fact that the appointments were for life, and that the members of the Council thereby perhaps undeservedly lost the public confidence. The proposed change would allow the Government to remove or rather not to reappoint those members of the Council who were not in the habit of attending the meetings of the Council. The other alterations in the law which the Bill proposed were mostly in detail, and he thought would be more suitably explained in Committee.

Messrs. RYKERT and DEROCHE made some remarks upon the details of the Bill.

Mr. MACDONALD said the Government was open to censure for not having introduced this Bill earlier in the session than they had done—after having mentioned the subject in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech. It was now too late for hon. members to find out the views of their constituents on the various alterations made in the law. He thought the Bill on the whole a good one, and proceeded to criticise some of its details.

Messrs. RYKERT and FERGUSON objected to some of the clauses.

Mr. CAMERON said that this Bill would excite considerable discussion, and as the Government did not appear to have formed any decided opinion on some of the points he thought that the Bill should be allowed to stand over until next session. If the Government were prepared to place the Bill before the House as a Government measure, and to take the responsibility of it, then his remarks would go for nothing. As to the composition of the Council of Public Instruction, he did not think that the change should be made in answer to sentimental objections taken to the present Council, which had for twenty-five years done good service in the cause of education. He thought that the proposed mode of construction would make the Council to evanescent.

Attorney-General MOWAT said it was not to be expected that the public should retain confidence in a body which was a permanent one, and whose sittings and discussions were private. He did not think that any changes would be made in the composition of the body merely for the sake of making a change. He had expressed doubt on only one clause of the Bill, and was prepared to defend all the others. Respecting the charge of delay in bringing in this Bill, he said hon. members must remember that the Government and the House had been very busy, and that everything could not be done at once. The Government had introduced this session more numerous and more important measures than had been introduced in any session of this Legislature.

Mr. CALVIN did not think that too much power could be given to County Councils. These Councils knew better than the authorities in Toronto did what was for the benefit of the county.

Dr. CLARKE made some suggestions. The Bill was then read a second time.

#### MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

Some discussion took place as to whether or not the debate upon the M. L. F. resolutions should be resumed.

Mr. CAMERON argued that as it had precedence it should be taken up at once.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said that the Government had the right to take it up when they pleased.

After some debate the understanding was come to that the debate should be resumed to-morrow.

#### ASSESSMENT ACT, 1869.

On motion of Hon. Mr. PARDEE, Bill to declare the true construction of certain sec