

ment to the amendment to the effect that Brockville instead of Ottawa be selected as the site for the School.

This motion was ruled out of order by the SPEAKER, who declared that the message from His Excellency was to advise that \$96,000 should be spent to build a school at Ottawa. It was not within the province of the Legislature to alter the plan.

The debate and the House were adjourned at 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

The Speaker took the chair at 7:30 o'clock.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS' COMMITTEE.

Mr. McLEOD presented the report of the Public Accounts' Committee, which is as follows:—

"The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts beg leave to report:—

"1. Your Committee have examined the Public Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1872, and herewith submit the records and minutes of their proceedings in the course of their investigations.

"2. It is a matter of satisfaction to your Committee that the Public Accounts for the past financial year were presented to the House in time to permit your Committee a full opportunity of a complete comparative statement of expenditure. The accounts furnished are a satisfactory test of the efficiency of the Department.

"3. Your Committee would also suggest that all accounts connected with repairs on public buildings should be revised before payment by some person experienced in prices and the charges of the different trades.

"4. The attention of your Committee having been specially called to the consideration of a certain payment to John Carroll for work on the Burleigh Colonization Road, your Committee, after investigation of all the circumstances involved in the case, are of opinion that the Government were fully justified in making the payment in question.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"(Signed),

"JOHN McLEOD,

"Chairman.

"March 28th, 1873 "

MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

Attorney-General MOWAT moved that the House go into Committee on the Bill respecting the Municipal Loan Fund Debts, and respecting certain payments to municipalities. Carried.

The House accordingly went into Committee—Mr. Fraser in the chair.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the fifth clause.

Attorney-General MOWAT explained that the clause was necessary.

Mr. RYKERT also made objections to the clause.

Mr. FAIRBAIRN thought that members should have a little time to look into the Bill instead of the clauses being rushed through at a rapid rate. He understood that the Bill conformed to the resolutions, but he found certain matters in it which were not contemplated by the resolutions in several of the clauses.

Attorney-General MOWAT said the clauses had been fully considered by the House, and he saw no reason why there should be delay now.

Mr. LAUDER maintained that by the sixth clause trustees were to be appointed to overlook the financial affairs of indebted municipalities, and their powers would be arbitrary. The effect would be to injure the credit of our municipal institutions.

Mr. FAREWELL approved of the machinery provided for by the Bill to compel those municipalities to pay whose representatives said never would pay. He heard the member for Lincoln say that St. Catharines would never pay its indebtedness. He hoped that the machinery would never have cause to be set in motion, but if municipalities would not pay their just dues the Government should have the power to promptly compel them to do so.

Mr. RYKERT could tell the member for South Ontario again that St. Catharines would never pay the load of debt upon her unless absolutely forced to, but he did not think the Government had brains enough to invoke such machinery as would compel payment.

Mr. CAMERON said he had before pointed out that the scheme was full of inequalities, and he protested that its provisions

were unjust so far as certain municipalities were concerned.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that the member for East Toronto had gone over the same ground repeatedly, and it was not necessary for him (the speaker) to reply at length, but it was very singular that the Government could be charged with doing injustice to municipalities by making them pay, not the whole amount of their debts, but only a fraction of them. He thought that public morality would endorse the idea that municipalities should pay their just liabilities.

Mr. RYKERT stated that the member for South Brant was the framer of the scheme, although the Government had called it their own.

Attorney-General MOWAT thought that the member for Lincoln should accept what he (the speaker) had stated several times before. He would now state again that the whole of the scheme—he did not refer to the figures—every feature in it that was essential—was worked out by himself, after consultation with his colleagues on the subject. After the scheme had been framed, he, knowing the great financial ability of the member for South Brant, took occasion to submit the scheme for his consideration, and he was gratified that that hon. gentleman expressed his thorough satisfaction with it in every respect. The preparation of the schedules was the mere working out of the principles of the scheme, and of course that would have involved an amount of labour on his part which he had no time for, nor was there any necessity for him preparing them himself. He had, however, prepared a large number of the schedules before the scheme was brought down to the House. (Hear, hear)

Mr. RYKERT again expressed his conviction that the member for South Brant had been chiefly concerned in devising the scheme.

Mr. McCALL said that there was a strong feeling in the country that the scheme should be made operative, and the proper machinery for making it was in the Bill.

Mr. PAXTON believed that the clauses should be stringent enough to compel defaulting municipalities to pay. Some of them might seek to escape the payment of their debts.

Mr. DEACON moved that clause 30 be struck out of the Bill, as he considered it was uncalled for. The clause read as follows:—"The reduction of the debts due by Lanark and Renfrew, Elizabethtown and Brockville, is subject to the condition that the liability of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Company to the said municipalities is reduced to the said amount.

The CHAIRMAN ruled that it was not competent for the Committee to adopt such a clause.

Ultimately Attorney-General MOWAT consented to the clause being expunged.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill.

On the motion for the third reading,

Mr. FAIRBAIRN again took exception to the sixth clause. He believed that such legislation was unprecedented and uncalled for. If the House was to be making special legislation continually, the measures passed by it would not have that respect which they should be entitled to.

Mr. LAUDER moved, seconded by Mr. FAIRBAIRN, that the sixth clause be referred back to the Committee with instructions to amend the clause by striking out that part of it which proposed to give power to the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint trustees to sign and execute debentures on behalf of indebted municipalities, and to make the debentures so signed of the same effect as if duly executed by the officers of the corporation in manner and after the proceedings required by the Municipal Law of Ontario.

Attorney-General MOWAT said that his hon. friend from Peterboro' did not appear to object to the clause because it worked an injustice, but because there was no precedent for it. Well, there was no precedent for the Municipal Loan Fund debts. He showed that the machinery provided for the working out of the scheme was necessary in order to make it operative. The clause objected to contained a most important provision, without which some of the municipalities might set the law at defiance. If the Government had given up ten millions they must have the balance of the money rendered safe.

After some further discussion, the House divided on the amendment, which was lost—Yeas 8, nays 49.

YEAS—Messrs. Boulbee, Fairbairn, Ferguson, Gifford, Lauder, Meredith, Rykert,