

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO.

SECOND PARLIAMENT—THIRD SESSION.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Boulton—To incorporate the Lake Huron & Quebec Railway Company.

Mr. Graham—Respecting the Grand Junction Railway.

Mr. Read—To Incorporate the Peterboro' Water-works.

MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

THE MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

Mr. LAUDER moved for a Return—(1.) Or copies of all Orders in Council passed during the year 1873, relating to the Municipal Loan Fund, and the Act of last Session relating thereto. (2.) All correspondence and telegrams between the Government and Municipalities, their officers or other persons, regarding the settlement of the said Municipal Loan Fund, and the said Act and Schedules thereto. (3.) A statement of all changes made in the Schedules to the said Act of last Session since the same passed to a third reading. He stated the Government had been very slow in bringing down the returns they had promised. In order that he might understand matters connected with the Central Prison, he had moved for the necessary papers, but they had not yet been brought down. He found with regard to the Municipal Loan Fund, that after the adjournment of the House last year, some of the amounts appropriated to the different municipalities were changed without the sanction of the Legislature. Because the Bill gave the Government power to adjust the schedules, they had no right to take to themselves the power of changing the scheme in this manner. He desired to know at whose suggestion, and for what reasons, the Government changed the schedules in this manner. He found by the organ of hon. gentlemen opposite, THE GLOBE, that some of the townships with regard to which a change had been made, had applied for their money, and were to receive it. Why was the Legislature not asked to sanction these changes? He could not tell how the Premier would defend such a course. The speaker then went on to complain that no Bill of importance had been proposed by the Government, save the School Bill, and stated that they had had nothing to do but to adjust the schedules, and he considered they should have been submitted to the House. He asked why thousands of dollars should be taken away from one municipality, and given to another, and then returned when circumstances of a political nature demanded it. Peel, Fergus, and Elora were changed in the manner he had referred to, but when Mr. McKim sought to be elected for the House of Commons he found this to be a serious objection against him. Consequently he addressed the Treasurer a long letter, beseeching him to put the money back, and received a reply stating that the money had been replaced according to his contention. Mr. McKim had insisted that the money should be put back again, and it was stated in that morning's issue that some of the municipalities were to receive the money. Peel, it was announced, had received the money due to it. He was greatly mistaken if the people liked this arbitrary way of dealing with the public money. He also complained that the Bill which the Attorney-General had brought down relating to Railway Aid would confer \$1,000 on these municipalities.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said the hon. member who had just moved the resolution was in the habit, like some other members on the same side of the House, with finding fault with everything that the Government either did or did not do; and he only required to know what they had done or not done in order to enable him at once to find fault, and to point to the action or want of action as something very wrong. It would be the much more dignified as well as the much more creditable course for the hon. gentleman to take, and one which would enable him to exercise a much more valuable influence in the House and in the country, if he would only make some discrimination in the matter, and only charge wrong-doing when there really was wrong-doing. This constant making of charges without the slightest foundation, while it really did no harm to the Government, recoiled upon the heads of hon. gentle-