

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

### ATTACHMENT OF WAGES OF MECHANICS.

Mr. MEREDITH moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the law relating to the Attachment of Debts by exempting the wages and salaries of mechanics and others from liability to attachment thereunder.

Mr. McMANUS thought the law as it stood worked very well, and objected to the second reading.

The motion was carried. The Bill passed through Committee, and was read a third time and passed.

The order of the day for resuming the debate upon Mr. Rykert's resolution, "That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient that provision be made by which municipalities entitled to payments under the Municipal Loan Fund Act of 1873 shall be permitted to expend their appropriations in accordance with the wish of the ratepayers, as expressed through their Councils in By-laws to be passed and approved by them," being read,

Mr. SPEAKER said that the rule was perfectly clear that no such important variation could be made in the purposes for which a grant of money had been made when it was recommended by His Excellency. By the English practice it is said to be possible to frame an abstract resolution on the subject of duties without going into Committee, but that it is not regular (Bourke, 181) No attempt has been made in this resolution to frame it so as to take it out of the ordinary rule. I see no difference whatever between such an important change in the distribution of the fund as is now contemplated, and a resolution which would assume to appropriate any part of the public revenue. The one is just as objectionable in principle as the other, and the same reasoning is applicable to one as to the other throughout all the cases which I have consulted. But it is said that this resolution only proposes an abstract opinion. Mr. May says that such resolutions have been allowed, but he proceeds to say that "they are objectionable, and being an evasion of a wholesome rule are discouraged as much as possible." Mr. Todd also says that "abstract resolutions in regard to particular branches of taxation have been submitted to the House by several members, but they have been uniformly resisted as being inexpedient and impolitic. These abstract resolutions are, in fact, growing more and more into disfavour in England, as tending to embarrass the Executive, &c. The language of the 54th section of the British North America Act seems also to be more stringent than the rule in England. "It shall not be lawful for the House to adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address, or Bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue, or of any tax or impost," &c. But whatever might have been my own opinion upon this subject, I consider myself bound by a precedent which I find in the journals of this House (1868, par 66). An abstract resolution was proposed affecting the revenue from timber. The Attorney-General, McDonald, objected that it could not be entertained without the recommendation of His Excellency. A long discussion followed, during which Mr. B. made the following observations:—"The resolution merely affirmed the expediency of making certain provisions; the House did not assume to provide for it; and in no other way could the sense of the House as to the policy or impolicy of pursuing a similar course be expressed. The resolution was barren of any result except of eliciting the opinion of the House on this point, but he quite agreed that, as a general rule, it was not expedient that discussions on such subjects should take place." The Speaker ruled against the resolution, and upon an appeal to the House his ruling was sustained. Believing, as I do, that there is in principle no difference between a resolution which proposes a grant of money and one which proposes to apply a grant already made to an entirely different purpose from that recommended by the Crown, and finding an express decision not only of the Speaker, but of this House itself, against such motions, and finding also that abstract resolutions are so much condemned and discouraged in England, I cannot do otherwise than rule in favour of the objection.

The order was then discharged.

## PUBLIC BILLS.

The following Public Bills were advanced a stage:—

Mr. Bethune—Bill to amend the Railway Act. Read a second time.

Mr. Bethune—Bill to provide for allowances to trustees, administrators, and executors. Read a second time, passed through Committee of the Whole, read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Meredith—Bill to prevent fraud and fraudulent practices upon or by hotel-keepers, tavern-keepers, and others. Read a second time, passed through Committee of the Whole, read a third time, and passed.

M. Farewell—Bill to amend the Act for the improvement of water privileges. Read a second time.

Mr. Hodgins—Bill respecting the St. Thomas Cemetery. Read a third time and passed.

Mr. Clarke (Norfolk) — Bill to consolidate and amend the several Acts of the Port Dover and Lake Huron Railway, and to confirm certain by-laws in aid thereof. Amended in Committee, read a third time, and passed.

### DRAINAGE WORKS.

Mr. LAUDER moved for a return of copies of all advertisements for tenders for the construction of drainage works in this Province, together with copies of all tenders received and contracts entered into with contractors relating to the said works. Carried.

The House adjourned at five o'clock, to meet at three o'clock to-morrow afternoon, and be prorogued.