

ion that Ontario should extend over the plains of the Saskatchewan and Assiniboine?—that there should be one Province of overpowering wealth, influence, and extent as compared to the others? What would Quebec say? What would the other Provinces say, and how would Confederation work under such circumstances? Ontario would gain most by such a policy as would lead the soonest to the development of these Western Territories. If their development would be more readily promoted by forming them into separate provinces, with separate governments, then that policy would be the best for Ontario. He had, however, no intention of going at any great length into this subject on this occasion. Before concluding, he would caution the House against believing that the country to the north was such a valueless wilderness as it had been represented to be. Steam navigation had now rendered Hudson's Bay easy of access during a part of summer. There were valuable minerals about this great inland sea. The fisheries were unlimited, and the furs were valuable. Moreover, some of the rivers emptying into that great basin had their source in warmer regions. The Albany, a very large river, was navigable a hundred and fifty miles from the Bay, or to a point within three hundred miles of Lake Superior, with an intervening country easy for railroads. On this Albany River were valuable forests of pine timber. The climate, on its upper waters, was not inhospitable, and the soil was in some sections excellent, and farming had been carried on at Henley's Post and Brunswick House with marked success.

Mr. BOULTER said that if the Government thought that there was danger of the records of the Crown Lands Department being destroyed he approved of their suggestion to provide a fire-proof building, and he should support an appropriation for that purpose. Referring to the School Act, he said that there was an impression among teachers that the examination papers were not very carefully prepared. Teachers ought to be encouraged, and no obstacles should be thrown in their way that were calculated to drive them out of the profession. Some of the questions given at examinations that had been held were, it was said, rather in the nature of conundrums or puzzles than to test their actual knowledge of the subjects in hand. He approved in general the measures brought forward by the Government.

Mr. MACMAHON thought that the calling of the House together at this season would prove to be disadvantageous to most hon. members. He was glad that by the consolidation of the Statutes of the Province they would be rendered more intelligible to the people in general. He approved of the proposed extension of the franchise to young farmers living at home, and believed it would not only prove a benefit to the young men themselves, but to the people as a whole. The new License Law had, during the short time that it was in force, given almost universal satisfaction to the people of his constituency. In some cases it might have proven a little expensive, but taking everything into consideration it was far superior to the old law. Referring to the proposed purchase of the Rockwood Asylum, he said it was a question whether the Ontario Government should not erect additional buildings themselves instead of purchasing the Rockwood building. He was not quite sure but the time had come when all grants to railways should be discontinued; but at all events rival lines and those built for speculation should not be aided. Railway legislation had caused the downfall of one Government in Ontario, and he hoped that this troublesome question would not have that effect upon the present Administration. Certain charges had been made in the public newspapers that gentlemen associated with hon. members on both sides of the House had indulged in speculations which were not to their credit. He hoped the investigation, which seemed to have been quashed, would be renewed, and the matter thoroughly inquired into. He was opposed to the erection of new Parliament buildings at present, but hoped that due provision would be made for the safety of public documents. He had hoped that the subject of the Administration of Justice would have been dealt with, for it was occupying a large share of public attention. The jurisdiction and conduct of Police Magistrates in cities was a matter deserving of inquiry. For the most trifling offences they were in the habit of sending prisoners up for trial, thus entailing unnecessary expense upon the country.

Mr. ROBINSON said that the present Parliament buildings were anything but a credit to the Province, but considering the feeling of the country, it was probably better

not to go on with the erection of new ones. He approved of the Government in the meantime making provision for the safety of the Crown Lands Records. He thought it right that railways which opened up the back country should receive Government help. The new License Act was pleasing even the Conservatives in his constituency, which was the best proof that it was working well. He advocated the extension of the Mechanics' Lien Law so as to include journeymen among those enjoying its benefits.

Mr. BRODER said that he was opposed to class legislation, and thought if farmers' sons who staid at home were to have votes other classes of the community should also have the franchise. If the intelligent persons in the country were to have votes he believed there would soon be a change of Government. He complained that the Government were centralizing power and taking away the powers of the local authorities. In the carrying out of the license law, licenses had been granted to Grits who had less qualifications than Tory applicants, the result being that the Tories had to resort to mere honourable occupations. He objected to constant tinkering with the law.

Mr. SCOTT remarked on the absence of any information in the Speech as to the reason for postponing the meeting of the Legislature to this season, which he did not consider so suitable as the season at which the House had previously met. The present Voters' Lists Act certainly required amendment, and he thought the voters' lists should be made final, so that any scrutiny should take place before instead of after an election. He did not believe that the License Act of last session tended to reduce the consumption of intoxicating liquors. He considered a mistake had been made in removing the control of the licensing system from the local authorities to the Provincial Government.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After recess.

Mr. SCOTT said, in reference to the accounts pending between this Province and Quebec, that when the present Minister of Justice of the Dominion was leader of the Opposition in this House he had reproached the Government of that time for their delay in the settlement of these disputes, but the present Government were chargeable with far greater delay, for apparently nothing had been done since 1870. He believed, with regard to the new Parliament buildings, that when the time came for their erection the feeling of the whole Province would be in favour of having them built in Toronto. There was a feeling of suspicion throughout the country that the recent troubles in the Central Prison had been hushed up, and he hoped that in order to remove that impression the Provincial Secretary would put the House in possession of all the details. He referred to the appointment of Hon. Mr. Gow to the shrievalty of Wellington, and said that the Reform party when in Opposition had placed upon record their opinion that no member of the House should be appointed to any office of emolument in his constituency. They had, however, forgotten all their professions when they got into office. He could not see that the sons of farmers were any more deserving of the franchise than the sons of mechanics, manufacturers, and other classes. If it was intended to limit the proposed extension of the franchise to the sons of farmers living with their parents, in the expectation of falling heir to their father's property at his death, such a law would operate upon a very small class of the community, and in such cases the franchise could be secured by leases. He did not think that since the delivering of Mr. Blake's Aurora speech there had been any general call by the public or the press for such a reform. It would seem as if hon. gentlemen opposite were turning to that speech to find something which they might call by the name of a reform, however uncalled for it might be. The country was agitated on the question of exemptions, which had not been mentioned in the speech, and one member of the Government had stated that he would not agree to what the country was demanding. He concluded by moving that the following words be added to the 15th clause of the address:— "That this House regrets, in view of the great interest manifested in the question by the people at large, that his Honour has not been pleased to make reference to the subject of the law relating to the taxation of property for municipal purposes, and the existing exemptions from such taxation."

Mr. BETHUNE said the press had discussed the exemption question in a somewhat general manner, but some points relating to it seemed to him to have been overlooked.