

which were printed by the Senate.

The motion passed.

COLONIZATION ROADS IN ALGOMA.

Mr. DAWSON moved for a return exhibiting the amount expended by the Government of Ontario during, and since, the summer of 1868 up to the present time, on colonization roads in the district of Algoma (other than in that part of the said district known as the Grand Manitoulin Island), showing the different roads made or undertaken, and the sums expended thereon in each year. He said that when the papers were brought down it would be seen how little had been done in the way of opening roads in that district, as compared to its extent and importance. Algoma comprehended a vast region bordering on our inland seas. It had a frontage of over five hundred miles in a direct line, and a coast line of more than a thousand. It covered ten degrees of longitude and five of latitude, and in territorial extent embraced at least half of Ontario, according to the present recognized limits of the Province. The country was, no doubt, in great part mountainous, and, indeed, it looked to be wholly so to persons passing along the great lakes. So did the shores of England or Ireland, as seen from the ocean, but in Algoma there were fertile valleys of great extent, and in that part of the district bordering on Lake Huron the climate was favourable to the growth of wheat and all kinds of crops that could be raised in other parts of Canada. The inland seas tempered the summer's heat and winter's cold, and early frosts were almost unknown. The country offered every inducement to settlers. It was better than the prairies of the West, because the lumber trade of the forests would afford employment to settlers in winter, which they could not look for in a prairie country, and the pest of grasshoppers was unknown. Last year a fair commencement had been made in opening roads, and he (Mr. Dawson) trusted that the Government would continue in the course it had begun. The district of Algoma had yielded a handsome revenue, as would be seen on reference to the return which he had called for last year. According to that return the sales of lands and timber berths amounted to \$750,000, but in this return the yearly revenue had been omitted. In the aggregate it was about \$50,000, and if interest were reckoned on the sums realised from sales it would give an additional sum of say \$200,000, making a total of over a million of dollars which Algoma had given to the revenue since Confederation. The district was, therefore, in a good financial position, and only asked for a small portion of the sums derived from it to aid in its development. Before Confederation the policy of the Government, whatever party happened to be in power, was to develop new sections from the resources of older districts; but in the case of the western half of Ontario this policy was now reversed, and its resources went to swell a surplus or were expended in older and less needy sections. In this the present Government only followed the policy inaugurated by their predecessors. Ontario might soon be enlarged by the acquisition of regions still more vast than Algoma, and it had become a matter of importance to consider how they were to be dealt with. This was a matter of deep interest to the country at large. At present the fine settlements growing up in Algoma were entirely shut off in winter, and some sort of a winter route, of however primitive a character, should be opened up. It was a necessary step to the development of the more distant regions of the North-west.

The motion was carried.

The motion was carried for a Select Committee. Mr. WILLS moved for a return to inquire into losses sustained by the late John O'Carroll, Belleville, in the Rebellion of 1837-8. He explained that O'Carroll had died before the Rebellion losses were settled, and that the claim had never been settled, and that the present claimants were all women who were poor and powerless. He desired simply that there should be an investigation in the same way as there had been in the case of the Montgomery claims.

Mr. MOWAT said it would be impossible for the Government to accede to the motion. The matters alluded to had occurred 40 years ago, and it was perfectly hopeless to expect to ascertain the merits of a claim at that distance of time. In 1849 a Commission investigated this matter with others in the county of Hastings, and the Commissioners allowed £25 and rejected £635 of the amount claimed. It would be impossible now to agree to this motion. The case of Montgomery was entirely different, as new evidence had been

brought forward by him, and money ordered to be paid to his wife had not, in consequence of her death, been paid to any one.

Mr. WILLS said the payment of £25 had not been made as a settlement of the claim, but as a small allowance to the widow.

The motion was then lost on a division.

TIMBER LICENSES.

Mr. WILLS moved for a return respecting timber licenses, showing—1st, The names of the several licensees; 2nd, The number of acres respectively held by said licensees; 3rd, The amount of license dues now in arrears by said licensees, if any; 4th, All other dues or fees now in arrear on account of timber or saw logs or other materials taken from said lands by each of said licensees, and also showing the amounts respectively due on the 31st of December, 1875; 5th, The amounts respectively paid in on account of said license dues, &c., during the year, 1876; 6th, The nature and amount of the security taken for dues, &c., or arrearages, if any.

Mr. DEACON said that he believed the Crown Lands Department were in the habit of charging arrears of dues upon lumber now accumulated at Ottawa belonging to large mill-owners there. This involved a serious wrong upon the innocent purchasers of this lumber, as it was at any time liable to seizure. The system had, he believed, originated with the immediate predecessor of the present Commissioner of Crown Lands. These arrears should not be allowed to accumulate for more than one year.

Mr. PARDEE would like to ask if it would be a prudent thing in the face of the hard times, and especially the depression in the lumber trade, for the Government not to allow arrears for more than one year when they had the best of security for their payment? This course would have been extremely harsh and unwise, and would have interfered seriously with a large and important interest. He had not the slightest objection to the motion, or, indeed, to the fullest inquiry into the management of the Crown Lands Department.

Mr. MILLER said that there was a good deal asked for in the motion which would be furnished by the report of the Crown Lands Department. He referred to the revenue which had been derived from Crown Lands in years past, and expressed his commendation of the successful efforts made by the present Commissioner to keep up to the utmost the revenue from this source.

Mr. DEACON said that what he complained of was that the purchasers of lumber should suffer.

Mr. PARDEE said his hon. friend referred to the circumstances of one particular case of a debtor to the Department, but he (Mr. Deacon) would find when the return was brought down that the Department had acted fairly to all parties. At present a discussion which would involve the dragging in the names and circumstances of Crown debtors was, he thought, a little premature.

Mr. MACDOUGALL thought the discretionary power now in the hands of the Government of dealing with the debtors of the Crown Lands Department was altogether too large a one, and one which a perfectly honest Government would not exercise. There should be some general rule on the subject, instead of leaving the whole matter as one of favour in the Department.

Mr. MILLER said if he was not greatly mistaken the very regulation to which the hon. member for South Simcoe referred was one which had originated with that hon. gentleman himself when he had been Commissioner of Crown Lands. He (Mr. Miller) regarded it as an excellent one, especially when the House had the power to call for the details by a return.

Mr. MEREDITH asked if the Department were in the habit of taking promissory notes from the holders of licenses.

Mr. PARDEE said that they were taken in some cases, but there was a regulation to the effect that they should not lessen the security taken by the Department. The hon. member for South Simcoe had spoken of matters of favour in connection with the granting of licenses. There was no favoritism about the matter. The Crown always had an ample security, for if the license dues were not paid at the prescribed time the license was withdrawn.

After some conversation, the motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE AND ARTS.

Mr. GRAHAM moved, "That the names of Messrs. Watterworth, Grant, Tooley, and Appleby be added to the Select Committee on