

these Works to the Province of Ontario. He thought the Dominion should not only hand over the Works, but should also pay the Province for necessary repairs.

Mr. BOULTER said it could hardly be doubted that the money which had been spent on canals and locks on this river had been wasted. There must be quite 20,000 acres of the best land in the Province submerged in consequence of one dam which might well be removed.

The motion was carried.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

Mr. MACDOUGALL moved for a return showing:—“1st. The number of suits now pending in the Court of Chancery; 2nd. The number of said suits which were pending on the 1st day of January, 1876; 3rd. The number of said suits pending on the 1st day of January, 1875; 4th. The number of said suits pending on the 1st January, 1874; 5th. The number of said suits pending on the 1st January, 1873; 6th. The number of said suits pending on the 1st January, 1872; 7th. The number of said suits pending for seven years and upwards.” He thought the reconstruction of the courts would become a question which would soon have to be dealt with, and he knew there were many cases which had long been pending before the Court of Chancery. He hoped the return would be brought down without delay.

Mr. MOWAT said there was just one objection to the motion, and that was that it was impossible to give the information it asked for the number of cases pending, while a vast number of suits were never brought to an end, but were settled at different stages, and there was no record of any such things and no possible way of getting at them. The number of Bills filed could easily be given, and the Government would be glad to bring down anything which it was possible to get.

Mr. MEREDITH said information could be obtained as to cases which had been pending for a number of years, as they could be traced in the Masters' offices.

Mr. MOWAT suggested that the hon. gentleman should let the motion stand for the present, and frame it in some practicable way. It would be a mere fraction of the cases to which the issue of writs from the Masters' offices would apply.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said the statement of the Attorney-General, that these cases could not be traced, was very extraordinary, and would be deemed so by the country.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. gentleman, having so large a practice in all the Courts, ought to have the information.

Mr. MACDOUGALL asked how it would be in a case which was argued three or four years ago, and was still standing for judgment.

Mr. MOWAT said the Government would be glad to give such cases.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he would withdraw the motion for the present and consult with Chancery practitioners as to how it should be drawn up.

In answer to Mr Meredith,

Mr WOOD said a part of the return ordered last session on this subject had been brought down, and the remainder would be submitted to-day.

The motion was then allowed to stand.

Mr. HANEY moved for a return of all correspondence relating to, and all the data upon which the High School at Font Hill has been ordered to be closed. He spoke of the efficiency of this school, and complained of the application of a cast iron rule to it.

Mr. CROOKS said he had no objection to the correspondence being brought down, or at least such portions of it as had not been covered by the return asked for the other day by the member for North Hastings. He found that in the case of the Font Hill School, as in many others, very little was raised, comparatively, for the maintenance of the school from local sources. The municipal grant in the case of Font Hill was only \$200 for the year 1875; the Legislative grant was \$400; the fees from pupils were \$125 50, and the amounts from other local sources \$4 30. This made a total of only \$729 contributed from all sources for its maintenance as a High School, and of this the Legislative grant was larger than the sum from all other sources. It was in this way that in many cases the intention of our High Schools was not very carefully carried out.

Mr. BOULTER said that the ventilation of these matters would serve good purposes

and the localities in which these schools were situated. He thought the inspection of High Schools could be better conducted than it was, and that Inspectors should suggest to the Trustees anything which was faulty in the manner of conducting the Schools. He could not see that one good man was necessarily incapable of teaching ten or fifteen pupils. The people would willingly be taxed more for school purposes than they now were, if this privilege were conceded by the Government.

The motion was carried.

RETURNS.

Mr. WOOD presented a return of cases standing for judgment in the Court of Chancery on the 30th of January 1876.

Also—Report of the Inspector of Division Courts for the Province for the year 1876.

Also—Copy of the Printing Contract, copies of correspondence, Orders in Council and other documents relating to the alterations in said contract.

PAYMENTS TO UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS UNDER MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND SCHEME.

Mr. CROOKS moved the third reading of the Bill respecting Payments to Unorganized Townships or parts of Districts under the Municipal Loan Fund Scheme. He remarked that under its provisions the only discretionary power conferred upon the Government was for the purpose of seeing that the money was expended for the purposes intended by the Municipal Loan Fund Act.

Mr. MEREDITH suggested that it should be amended by providing that at the beginning of the session the purposes to which the money was applied should be laid before the House, he feared that in cases where there were business centres like Thunder Bay the partially settled districts would be likely to suffer.

Mr. CROOKS pointed out that it was always open to the House to order returns showing the objects to which the money was applied.

The motion was carried, and the Bill read the third time.

FREE GRANT AND HOMESTEAD ACT.

Mr. MILLER moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Free Grant and Homestead Act. He explained that its provisions were intended to remove certain grievances of which settlers on free-grant lands complained. The Bill provided that a locatee on free-grant lands who had been in actual occupation for six months and was at the time in actual operation, with at least one acre cleared and under crop, might sell his improvements and interest to re-locate on any other free-grant lands under the provisions of the Act. Any purchaser of these improvements or interest, on filing the conveyance in the Crown Lands Department, or with a local agent, should be entitled to the patent for the lands at the expiration of five years from the date of the original location, provided the conditions of the Act were complied with. In computing occupation and improvement, the time occupied and the work done by the original locatee should be held to have been occupied and done by the purchaser. Another clause provided that no locatee or purchaser of locations should hold at any one time a larger quantity of land than that specified by the Free Grant and Homestead Act. He contended that there was a necessity for making the operation of the Free Grant Act more flexible than it now was. It might be said that the tendency of the Bill would be to encourage speculation, but he thought there was a clear distinction between what was known as speculation, and the case of young Canadians who went into these districts and made improvements for which they were not allowed to repay themselves. Why should not the latter class get pay for improvements which they effected as well as a lawyer got paid for his brief or a doctor for his professional attendance? Under the present system transfers could, as a matter of fact, be effected through the intervention of the Department, but there was so much delay as to render the practice of little value. Why, then, should not the practice be made a matter of right? He referred, among other instances which he contended showed the hardship to the settlers of the present system, to the fact that in the township of Stephenson 5,896 acres, assessed at \$6,896, were held by non-resident locatees. On these lands the other locatees had paid \$300 school taxes. If transfers were allowed the purchasers would be liable for the arrears of taxes. He read from THE GLOBE'S reports of the de-