

TIMBER ON FREE GRANT LANDS.

Mr. PARDEE moved the second reading of the Bill respecting the Free Grant and Homestead Act of 1868. He pointed out that the Courts had decided that the Government only reserved the pine as a trustee for the locatee, while the Government had already sold the timber on located as well as unlocated lands for a large sum of money. The decision meant that they had no right to put the lands located under license, and if that view were carried out the Province would have to pay heavy damages. It was certainly not the intention of the framers of the Act or of the House or the Government that the measure should bear such a construction. Mr. Justice Gwynne had also decided that the patent should prevail over the license at the end of the five years, though the license might have to run till the end of the current year. By this Bill it was proposed to make it clear that the Crown could issue licenses for land whether located or not, and further, that a license should prevail during its currency over the patent.

Mr. DEACON approved of the first section but not of the second section, though that might be amended in Committee.

Mr. PARDEE pointed out that it had generally been held that the license should prevail over the patent, and the second clause was only intended to make it clear beyond a doubt.

The Bill was read a second time.

COURTS OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.

Mr. MOWAT, in moving the second reading of the Bill respecting the County Court, General Sessions of the Peace, and Surrogate Court of the county of York, pointed out that exceptional legislation had been previously necessary in reference to this county, and this Bill had been framed in accordance with the views of the learned Judge of the County Court. He explained the details of the Bill, and showed the great saving which would result from expediting the business. The actual cost per day to the county for jurors, constables, sheriff, and court-house was about \$133 50, while if the loss to witnesses and jurors and the public were added, the cost was estimated to be not less than \$325 a day. It was therefore desirable to take every means to shorten the sittings, and the saving of a few days would be sufficient to cover the cost of a shorthand writer.

The Bill was read the second time.

CONSTABLES.

Mr. MOWAT, in moving the second reading of the Bill respecting constables, pointed out that the principal provisions of this Bill had been suggested by a former member of this House, who now occupied a judicial capacity. The object was to supplement the powers of the local authorities, and also to allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to appoint constables when necessary.

After a short discussion the Bill was read the second time.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

Mr. CROOKS moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the several Acts respecting the Educational Department, Public and High Schools, and the University of Toronto. He stated that he had explained the most prominent features of the Bill on its introduction, and did not propose to go over the same ground again. The proposed amendments did not interfere with the principles already laid down, but carried them out still further. It was proposed to offer greater encouragement to the labours of High Schools in connection with pupils who passed examinations in other institutions of learning. It was also intended to make the duty of the Department in reference to the programme of studies more clear. The programme endorsed by the late Council of Public Instruction included, in addition to the elementary subjects of English education, a variety of subjects, some of which might be termed facultative, but that programme had all the force of a statute, and unless it was complied with literally, a school section would be in danger of losing its portion of the grant. The programme ought not, in his opinion, to be a rigid rule to be complied with in all cases, but rather a model to be carried out as far as might be, while several of the subjects with which it was now overloaded should not be made optional, but eliminated altogether. (Hear, hear.) Another point had reference to the very difficult question, How to supply the schools with trained teachers? He had previously shown that a very large proportion of the teaching staff of the Province was composed of those who possessed the lowest qualification. The first and second-class certificates were to a certain extent of Provincial authority, and were held for life, while the third-class certificates were granted to

those candidates who passed an examination in subjects of by no means a difficult character, and were rather intended to enter them as apprentices in their professional career. He proposed to assist the holders of these certificates to obtain the higher classes, and to provide that, before they should be employed in the conduct of a school, they should be required to obtain further experience by passing six or eight weeks in some county training or model school, to which the Province should contribute \$100 and the county \$100, the better to enable it to answer the requirements. No doubt the training acquired in the actual work of a school was more valuable perhaps than any other knowledge, just as the experience gained in any profession was more valuable than any amount of book learning, though the latter was also requisite. In England a system was adopted by which teachers were trained from an early period. The Government paid a large proportion of the expense of each pupil teacher, and then he was drafted into a training college and maintained and educated there at the expense of the country. In England they endeavoured so to contrive their machinery that no public school could be placed in the hands of an inexperienced teacher, but their system was one which could not be imitated here, and the utmost we could do was, as far as might be, by a moderate expenditure of Provincial funds and of local funds in the different counties, to arrive at something which might be an equivalent. Here a very moderate amount was required to ensure a sufficient training to any one anxious to become a teacher, while in England an expenditure of at least £100 was necessary for each trained teacher. The larger question next arose, How the schools were to be filled with the holders of first and second-class certificates. He had already shown what a small proportion there was of teachers holding certificates of those classes. The Government proposed to throw open the Normal Schools at Toronto and Ottawa so as to offer strong inducements to those who desired to obtain second class certificates—to pay their travelling expenses, and to maintain them to the extent of at least one-half while they were residing at these points. It was estimated that the travelling expenses would amount to about \$9,000 a year, and the cost of maintenance to \$6,400, assuming that the full number attended the schools—namely, 50 at a time at each school, or 200 per annum at each school during the eight months of the scholastic year. It was proposed that their attendance should be limited to two months, and that this time should be spent solely in learning the art of teaching, which would be a longer time than any Normal School student had in a year. The tendency had been of late years to devote the attention of the students and masters for most of the time to the subjects of examination rather than to actual instruction in the art of teaching. The result of the accommodation of these schools would be left as in the past. It was hoped by this means to add 400 or 500 second class teachers to the staff every year, and to diminish the untrained teachers *pro tanto*. The improvement in school accommodation and the large increase in the average salary of teachers showed that the country was progressing, and it was incumbent on the Department to offer facilities which would bring a larger number of the better class of teachers into the profession. These matters would of course depend on regulations to be framed by the Department under the authority of the law, and the proposed amendments would allow such regulations to come into effect after the present half-year. It was further proposed to give assistance to teachers' associations, which fulfilled an excellent object, in bringing members of the profession together and enabling them to benefit by each other's experience. He had visited 21 of these associations, and asked hon. members to think as highly of them as he did, and to agree to vote the small sum of \$100 a year to each of them in order to prevent their unduly taxing themselves and withdrawing any considerable amount from their very moderate salaries. It had at one time been proposed to employ an officer to go round the Province holding teachers' institutes, but it did not appear necessary to employ such an officer, as the inspectors, being experienced teachers themselves of the first class, grade A, would be far better able to assist the teachers than any such official. Some other amendments he intended to postpone the discussion of until the Bill was in Committee. He explained that it was not intended to make the formation of township boards compulsory, but that this Bill simply provided an improved machinery to overcome the difficulties which had been found to exist in the present law. The late Chief Superintendent had