

Mr. MILLER was very glad to hear that. Referring to educational matters, he thought too much power was placed in the hands of inspectors who could refuse the Government grant to schools unless there was the strictest legal accommodation for children. Matters of school expenditure also should be submitted to the people before school boards took it upon themselves to authorize them. Alluding to the Toronto and Ottawa Railway project, he would oppose the construction of a through line from this city to Ottawa. It would be better to extend the Victoria Railway from Haliburton to Perth or Carleton. For that extension he would be willing to vote for a bonus, and he believed there would be no great opposition to it. The country owed much to the Grand Trunk, and he should be sorry to see the property of men—many of them poor—who had invested in that line injured by a competing line.

Mr. MEREDITH thought that the remarks of the hon. member for East Toronto with regard to emigration had been misapprehended, for no one could but regret the emigration of the native population from this country. If, instead of spending large amounts of money to promote emigration from the Old Country, more were spent in inducing our young men to remain in Canada, it would be better. (Hear, hear.) He would like to have had some explanations with regard to the Civil Service measure. Unless both sides of the House decided to carry out a thorough Civil Service reform it would be of little use. One important measure which should have been mentioned in the Speech, was a reform in our assessment system, and particularly in the matter of exemptions, of which there were a great many in the country that could not be justified. The exemption of joint stock companies enabled large and rich manufacturing corporations to secure an undue advantage over smaller institutions. Gas and Street-railway companies enjoyed an advantage in having the use of the streets of cities and towns, but they paid nothing for this privilege. He did not know why this subject had not been mentioned in the Speech. He was unable to determine whether it was because the hon. Commissioner of Public Works exercised such an influence over the Government as to induce them to decide that such a change should not take place. If this Commissioner was entitled to dictate the policy of the Government, he (Mr. Meredith) thought the country was paying too dear for his services. No one, in his opinion, could justify the policy of exemption. The practical effect of exempting Church property was just the same as if each municipality in this country placed in its yearly estimates a grant of money to each denomination. This was a system to which Reformers had always professed to be opposed. Having dealt with the assessment law, the Government had tacitly admitted that they should also deal with this question. It was said, but he hoped for the credit of the Government it was not true, that they intended to put up a member of this House to propose an amendment to the assessment law, in order to test the sense of the House upon this question, and by this means to obviate any difficulty with any section of the community which might arise if it was dealt with as a Government measure. It was unjust that because this question principally affected cities it should therefore be passed by. He could tell hon. gentlemen that cities exercised a large influence, and that the Government could not afford to overlook their interests. It was too much the habit of the House to deal unfairly with city constituencies in order to please the rural constituencies. It was the duty of the Government to protect the weak against the strong, instead of imposing upon them burdens which they ought not to bear. He regretted that the Government had not promised some measure dealing with the assessment law, and he thought they had been remiss in their duty in not having done so.

Mr. LONG, referring to educational matters, thought the subjects of study in the Public Schools were too numerous. There was too much power in the hands of school trustees in undertaking the erection of school buildings before the people expressed their desire for them, and before funds were provided by the municipal councils. The cause of the emigration of young Canadians from the country should be enquired into by the Government, and this evil, if possible, remedied. An important subject which he hoped the Government would deal with was the treatment of the pauper classes who were a great burden upon the cities and towns of the Province. Referring to the lumber question, he said the figures presented to them did not prove that there was a real improvement in that trade. The consumption of lumber in cities was very small compared with that in the country. He knew that lumbermen had not made any money since 1874.

Mr. ROBINSON said the sooner the question of tax exemptions was settled the better. He thought that neither side of the House wanted to give the subject a political aspect, and the best way to deal with the question appeared to him to be to appoint a Committee composed of gentlemen from both sides of the House to enquire into the matter and report. He hoped it was not true that the Orange Bill would receive the go-by this session. At the last meeting of the Grand Lodge of East Ontario it was unanimously decided that the question should be brought up year after year until it was carried. Why it was not brought up by the members on the Opposition side of the House he could not understand. He remembered that there was some talk about a power behind the Throne having prevented the Government from bringing it forward. He hoped the power behind the Throne had not induced the Opposition to drop it so suddenly. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He did not believe that they had received any orders from the Grand Lodge to abandon the measure. He did not know whether they were keeping it back for a session nearer the general election or not. They would find that when the election came it would operate like a two-edged sword, for it could cut both ways. As an Orangeman and as a member of this House he protested against the Opposition dropping this measure without giving a reason for so doing.

Mr. BARR said he regretted to hear the attack which had been made upon the Orange Association for not pushing this question. (Laughter.)

Mr. ROBINSON said that he had not attacked the Orange Association, but the members of the Opposition. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BARR said that the hon. gentleman had at any rate found fault with the proceedings which had been taken with reference to the Orange question. He (Mr. Barr) hoped, however, that the Government would meet that subject and assist the House in carrying the Bill. (Opposition cheers.) He regretted that the question of exemptions had not been taken up by the Government, seeing there had been an almost universal demand for the abolition of these exemptions. He disapproved of large blocks of lands being locked up for Church purposes, and said that Church property should be taxed the same as other. Referring to educational matters, he said that while he approved of the assiduity of the Minister of Education in going through the country and attending teachers' meetings and so on, he feared that he had paid more attention to the opinions of teachers and inspectors than to those of the trustees and people. He did not fear, like some hon. members, that there was any danger of placing too much power in the hands of trustees; and was of opinion that there should be a grade of teachers intermediate between second and third class teachers under the present programme. He thought there were lines of railway now being constructed which were well deserving of Government aid, as they were opening up our new districts. He did not approve of the sneers at the efforts of railway promoters, as to their energy was due a large amount of the present prosperity of the country. The late changes in the License Act had not worked well, as the hotels were better managed under the old law, while many of the Commissioners had abused their power. The tendency of these changes had been to take the power out of the hands of the people, and he was sure they were a step in the wrong direction. He approved of the intended increase of accommodation for the deaf and dumb, the blind, &c.

Mr. MERRICK denied that the reason the Orange Bills were not to be introduced this session was—as implied by the member for Kingston—because of political objects. Last year, when arguments had been advanced from the Opposition side of the House in favour of the passage of these Bills, the Attorney-General had urged that the objections preferred against the "Omnibus Bill" were not tenable, but still he had introduced amendments to the general Bill to meet some of these objections. He thought it was out of place for the member for Kingston to charge political motives to the conduct of Opposition members, seeing that that hon. gentleman's action had been condemned by the Orange body. It was the intention to introduce these Bills this session, and he would explain the reason why they were not introduced. Some hon. members supporting the Government had told him last session that they would vote for these Bills if they were assured that their constituents would support them in so doing. It had been intended, therefore, to circulate petitions in the constituencies represented by such members, and getting them signed by so many of the supporters of these hon. gentlemen as would convince them that their fears in that respect were groundless. It was, however, found quite impossible to get these petitions in time to present to the House. (Hear, hear, and loud laughter.) The hon. Commissioner of Public Works might laugh if he chose, for he (Mr. Merrick) well believed that it was largely due to that hon. gentleman's influence with his colleagues that the Bills had not been allowed to pass. He repeated that it was ordered by both the Grand Lodges that such petitions as those he had indicated should be circulated. (The hon. gentleman here resumed his seat, but after a brief whispered colloquy with the member for East Toronto, again rose and said, amid loud laughter, that through some mismanagement these petitions had not been returned.)

Mr. FRASER—Why was not notice given in the Gazette?

Mr. MERRICK—Notice was given in the *Orange Sentinel*.

Mr. FRASER—Why was not notice given in the *Ontario Gazette*? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MERRICK—I have just explained why. We did give notice in the *Orange Sentinel*.

Mr. HARDY—Then the reason assigned by the hon. member for Cardwell was not correct. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. MERRICK repeated that notice had been given in the *Orange Sentinel*.

Mr. HARDY—That is not the official organ of the Government. (Laughter.)

Mr. MERRICK—Well, if the Government don't choose to pass these measures next session I can assure them they will soon give place to those who will. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. O'DONOGHUE moved the adjournment of the debate. Carried.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 11 o'clock.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Hodgins—On Tuesday next—Order of the House for a return showing the amounts granted to each railway from the "Railway Aid Fund," the "Railway Subsidy Fund," the "Railway Aid Fund" of 1876, and the "Railway Subsidy Fund" of 1877, the amounts paid to each railway, the mileage for which such moneys had been paid, and the amounts claimed by said railways, and the causes of non-payment, and also showing the "financial basis" accepted by the Government as satisfactory under the Acts authorizing such payments.

Mr. Hodgins—On Monday next—Will move the following resolutions:—

1. That in all contracts extending over a period of years, and creating a public charge, actual or prospective, entered into by the Executive Government for any public work or service, there shall be inserted the conditions following, or to the like effect:—