

they were not fit to represent the people in this House. He wanted at least a week to consider this measure. (Laughter.)

Mr. PAXTON strongly objected to the lateness of the distribution of this Bill to lay members of the House. He had taken a copy of the measure home last night and read a couple of hours, when he got tired. (Laughter.)

AN HON. MEMBER—Did you take it to bed with you? (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. PAXTON objected to retaining the name of the Court of Chancery. He had opposed the Administration of Justice Bill because he thought it should be more thoroughly considered. The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works at that time said that they would carry it through in spite of the seven or eight people who opposed it, and he and the Hon. Commissioner had not been real good friends since. He considered it a great slight to the lay members of the House to have sent the Bill to some members before sending it to the others. He believed the second reading of the Bill should not be pushed forward at present.

Mr. MOWAT replied that the nature of the Bill was such that any discussion which took place upon it could only be as to matters of detail, and must, therefore, be done in Committee. He assured the hon. member that he would have every opportunity of discussing it before it was passed, as he had no desire whatever to forward the Bill with unnecessary haste.

Mr. PAXTON still held that in urging a second reading of the Bill at present the Government would be slighting the members who had not had copies of the Bill forwarded to them until yesterday, and therefore had not had time to consider it.

Mr. YOUNG, as a lay member, wished to say that he did not feel at all slighted because a copy of the Bill had not been sent to him in advance. The Government naturally sent this legal Bill to legal gentlemen, just as it was customary for them to consult persons having special knowledge on other subjects of legislation. (Hear, hear.) The question now before the House was as to the principle of the Bill and there had been sufficient discussion upon it to show that it was a measure for the great advantage of the people. It was time that legislation should be pushed forward, and he could see no reason why the second reading should be any longer delayed. The details could be discussed fully in Committee.

The Bill was then read the second time.

Mr. MORRIS asked when the Bill would be considered in Committee. He again urged that the country should have plenty of time to consider its provisions.

Mr. MOWAT said he was not prepared to name a day. If the hon. member had been a member of this House as long as he (Mr. Mowat) he would have known that he had always endeavoured to do his duty to the Opposition, no matter how small they might be. The only change of any consequence made in the Bill as originally distributed, was the omission of the date when it should come into force.

Mr. MEREDITH thought there was no reason why the Attorney-General should display any temper at his hon. friend's request.

Mr. MOWAT—I only say I cannot name a day, but I will consult the hon. gentleman himself as to when we should go into Committee on the Bill.

Mr. MEREDITH thought the leader of the Government ought to have magnanimity enough not to sneer, as he had done repeatedly, at the small number of the Opposition. (Laughter.) Although he had two-thirds of the House supporting him, he would find by the returns which would be brought down that he was only supported by five or six thousand more of the people of Ontario than the Opposition. The hon. gentleman would not then twit them with the smallness of their number.

Mr. SPEAKER—This discussion is entirely out of order. There is no motion now before the chair.

The matter then dropped.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Mr. COOK moved the second reading of his Bill to amend the general Railway Acts. He explained that it provided that the frogs of railway tracks should be filled up, and that switches, instead of being thrown three inches apart, should be thrown six inches apart, so that a person's foot might not be caught in them. These provisions, he believed, would greatly tend to diminish the loss of life on railway tracks.

Mr. FRASER said he had no objection to the second reading of the Bill, with the understanding that the House did not commit itself to any principle in the Bill, and that it should go to the Special Committee which had been appointed to consider the whole question.

With this understanding the Bill was read the second time.

IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Mr. HAY asked whether, in anticipation of a settlement with the Dominion Government, and the payment by them of the Improvement Fund due on sales of Crown and School lands, it is the intention of the Government to pay the fund in question to the municipalities, and if so, when; and if such payment is not to be made, what prospect there is of an early settlement being effected with the Dominion authorities.

Mr. MOWAT—It is not the intention of the Government to pay this money in anticipation of settlement with the Dominion Government, but it will be paid as soon as we obtain it. Negotiations have been in progress for a settlement of this and other matters by the Dominion Government, but in consequence of political changes at Ottawa and Quebec it has not been found possible to bring the negotiations to a conclusion. I have no doubt, however, that before next session this matter will be settled.

MAGISTRATES IN ESSEX.

Mr. WHITE asked whether it is the intention of the Government during the present session to issue a Commission of the Peace for the North Riding of the county of Essex, or whether it is the intention of the Government to appoint a certain number of Justices of the Peace in the township of Tilbury West, in the county of Essex.

Mr. MOWAT replied in the negative, remarking that he had not been informed that there was any need of magistrates in either of the places men-

tioned. If there was, he would be exceedingly glad to see that the want was supplied.

SUNNIDALE SURVEY.

Mr. LONG asked whether the survey of the township of Sunnidale, in the county of Simcoe, lately in progress, has been completed, and if not when it is expected to be completed. Also, whether it is the intention of the Government to confirm the old or the new survey of the township.

Mr. PARDEE—The surveyor appointed to do the work alleges that it has been completed, and partial returns have been made to the Department, and we are now trying to get full returns. The Government had not decided whether the old or the new survey will be affirmed, but no confirmation will be made without the legislation of this House.

FREE GRANTS.

Mr. MILLER asked when will the township of Sinclair, in the District of Muskoka, and the townships of Bethune, Proudfoot, Joly, Laurier, Hims-worth, Nipissing, Machar, Strong, Lount, Pringle, Patterson, Hardy, Mills, Ferry, McKenzie, Wilson, McKonkey, Blair, Brown, Burton, Burpee, Shawa-naga, and Harrison, in the District of Parry Sound, be opened for location under the Free Grants and Homesteads Act of 1868.

Mr. PARDEE—The Government hope to be able to open some, if not all, of the townships soon after the end of the session.

CLAIM AGAINST HUNTER, ROSE, & CO.

Mr. CREIGHTON asked whether the sum of \$14,481.84 of moneys belonging to this Province, retained by Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co. in their hands on the 31st day of January last, as appears by a return to this House (Sessional paper No. 51, 1879,) has since been paid by them to the Province, and if so, when the said moneys were so paid.

Mr. MOWAT—It is a matter of dispute whether the sum named does belong to the Province. Negotiations are in progress—which we hope may terminate in a settlement before the rising of the House—between the Government and Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co.

IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Mr. HAY moved for a return of any papers and correspondence which may have passed between the Provincial and Dominion authorities in respect to the payment by the latter of the improvement fund accruing on school land sales, and due under the Quebec Award, and also in respect to the payment of the improvement fund due on account of sales of Crown lands made between 14th June, 1853, and 6th March, 1861, and on collections made between 6th March, 1861, and 1st July, 1867. It was now over a year since the award of the Commissioners on this matter had been confirmed. Under that award there was due to this Province on account of school lands \$124,785, and on account of Crown lands \$101,771, making altogether \$226,456. The municipalities entitled to receive this money were of course anxious to get it as soon as possible.

Mr. SINCLAIR blamed the Dominion Government for allowing a whole year to elapse after this award had been confirmed by the Privy Council without paying over the money. These moneys were unjustly taken from the people of this Province by the party now in power at Ottawa, and there were rumours in the air that it was not the intention of the Dominion Government to give effect to this award. He thought the Government of the Province should push the matter.

Mr. LAUDER contended that this was a question not between this Province and the Dominion, but between this Province and the Province of Quebec. This Province was largely indebted to the Province of Quebec, as the latter had a much greater claim against us than we had against it. He suggested that the Government should pay what was due to the county of Bruce out of the sum due by this Province to the Province of Quebec.

Mr. WOOD said the hon. member had forgotten the terms of the award when he said the matter was not between us and the Dominion Government. He was entirely wrong. (Hear, hear.) When the settlement took place it would be between this Province and the Dominion. But as the Province of Quebec was interested it was but right that it should be a party to the settlement. The award stated that we should receive from the Dominion Government \$124,000 on account of the land improvement fund, and the Province of Quebec could not interfere to prevent the payment of that sum. Prior to the last Dominion election he went to Ottawa to try and effect a settlement of this debt. The Mackenzie Administration were in power then, and told him they were quite willing to consider the question of settlement, but they preferred to leave it over until after the general election. After the election, however, another party acceded to power, and the answer he got to his application to them was a very reasonable one. They said that as they had their policy to prepare, they would not be able to deal with the subject until after the session. But after the session another delay was caused by the change of Government in Quebec. In reply to a letter which he had written to the Finance Minister the latter stated that after the present session the matter would be settled; and he had no doubt it would. He did not think, therefore, that any blame rested either on the Government of Ontario or on the Dominion Government.

The motion was then carried.

Mr. GIBSON (Huron) withdrew a motion which he had upon the notice paper upon the same subject.

COLONIZATION ROADS.

Mr. MILLER moved for a return showing (1) the amount of money expended respectively by each overseer employed on colonization roads for the year 1879, giving names of overseers and road or roads built and repaired by each, and the daily wages paid each overseer respectively; (2) the total number of days' work done, and the total amount paid for men's wages on each job; (3) the total number of days' work done by, and total amount of wages paid for teams on each job; (4) the total amount paid for provisions by or on behalf of each foreman, including freight; (5) the total amount paid for tools, implements, blankets, cooking utensils, and all supplies other than provisions by or on behalf of each overseer, including freight. While he believed that the expenditure on colonization roads had been more judicious and effective under the present Commissioner of Crown