

them to grade the road. The bonuses had not only been procured and handed over to the trustees, but had been realized upon, and the money had been expended. The amount of these bonuses footed up, in the aggregate, to no less a sum than half a million of money. Feeling for the position of the roads, but feeling more for the municipalities interested, the Government thought they could not consistently refuse aid toward the completion of the roads thus commenced. They felt, having regard to the past policy of the House, that it might be said that the faith of the Province had been to some limited extent pledged to those municipalities which had voted these large sums, and to the companies which had expended them. Feeling all this, the Government had placed a notice of resolutions upon the paper with this object in view, but they found that public feeling was very strong against future aid to railways in any shape at present. It was the duty of the Government to give effect to public opinion, and they would not be true to themselves or to the country if they did not do so. Finding public opinion as expressed to be so, they found themselves unable to aid those roads. Having come to this determination in reference to railways in course of construction, the Government felt it to be their duty to warn municipalities and railway promoters promoting new schemes and new roads so that they may be guided accordingly. He did not pretend to say for a moment that the Legislature would not be asked to grant aid to railways in the future. All he did say was that the public feeling was strong in the direction of withholding all aid to railways at present, and the Government felt it to be their bounden duty to give effect to that feeling. They had decided to have no railway policy this session, and he asked to withdraw the notice of resolutions.

Mr. MEREDITH thought that this was a most singular statement just made by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. The hon. gentleman stated that public feeling was against the granting of further aid to railways. Where did he find that feeling? He considered the Government occupied a most humiliating position.

Mr. SINCLAIR regretted extremely the resolution at which the Government had arrived. Several of the municipalities had voted bonuses on the strength of the general policy of the Government. He read a number of bonuses granted to the Stratford and Lake Huron Railway. He thought that his stoppage of Government aid was a most grievous wrong done to the people of this section. He himself was in a manner pledged for the faith of the Government. He was afraid that this withholding of aid would bring matters on this road to a standstill.

Mr. PARDEE said that his hon. friend from London affected to misunderstand him. He distinctly stated that the faith of the Province had not been pledged to the railways in question.

Mr. CALVIN could not agree to the withholding of aid from railways when he saw the Government proposing to erect buildings we did not want at a cost of \$500,000.

Mr. HUNTER could not allow the decision just given to pass without notice. The municipalities were certainly led to believe that there would be no change in the railway policy of the Government. No doubt the opinion of the country was against the granting of further aid to railways. But then the municipalities were committed to railway-building, and this desertion of them by the Government was, he considered, ill-advised. He was bound to protest in the interest of his constituents against the policy just enunciated. Although there was no declared promise there was certainly an implied one that the railways which were building in the Province would be assisted by the public money.

Mr. MORRIS thought the position of the Government very humiliating. What is the reason assigned for the change of policy on their part. The Commissioner of Crown Lands said that public opinion was against the former policy. What answer had been given to deputation after deputation concerning railways? Had they not been led to believe that aid would be given them in their schemes? He agreed partially with the conservative principle adopted by the Government. But he would not change a settled policy of this kind hastily. The hon. gentlemen opposite boasted of their large majority, but on the first great question they had been found lacking in backbone.

Mr. MILLER said the hon. gentleman would find that it was not a new thing to find a Government altering a policy. As far as he was concerned he was quite prepared to support whatever policy the Government brought down. It must be remembered that the actual surplus of the Province was not very large. The Government, he supposed, could not bring down a policy unless it was a comprehensive one. Aid-granting must come to an end some time, and this perhaps was as good a time as any. He claimed that ample notice had been given of the near end of the granting of subsidies by the Government. He trusted that the time would soon come when the finances of the Province would again justify the assisting of railway enterprises. He was wholly in accord with the Government on this point. They certainly would have had the support of their friends had they brought down a policy of granting aid to railways. If a policy had been brought down the Opposition would have fallen foul of that, just as they now objected to a want of policy.

Mr. FERRIS called the attention of the House to the fact that some members of the Opposition had been loud in speaking of the burdens the Province had incurred for railway bonuses. The western section of the Province was now pretty well laced with railways. He agreed with the Commissioner that public opinion was against the granting of further aid. It was wrong to say that due warning had not been given of the probable withdrawal of aid to railways. The schemes now before the country were more local than provincial, and were therefore less deserving of support. He thought the time had come to pause. Hon. gentlemen must remember that the Provincial funds had been used to lighten the burdens on municipalities.

Mr. LAUDER said nobody had yet got up in support of what the Commissioner of Crown Lands had said in regard to the feeling of the country being against granting aid to railways. Where was the public opinion he spoke of? He had heard

the Attorney-General answering railway deputations, and he was sure nobody could draw from these utterances the idea that grants to railways were to come to an end. The member for Muskoka was perhaps satisfied with what he had got. A railway running up through Muskoka had been bonused to the extent of \$8,000 per mile, and perhaps the hon. gentleman would rest and be thankful with that. Those sections of the country which had received aid surely could not be so selfish now as to refuse to less fortunate counties their fair share of subsidies. He would like to see the Indian Peninsula get a little of the Government aid. He would also like to know who were the men who had induced the Government to change their mind so radically and so suddenly. He could assure the member for Muskoka that the selfishness which he had displayed that day would do no good to the back country which he represented. Had not the Attorney-General during the election stated that the Province was still possessed of \$4,000,000 of a surplus. And now they said they were too poor to assist deserving railway enterprises. If there was one section of the Province which was in need of railway facilities more than another, that was the county of Bruce. He hoped the gentlemen who advised the withholding of aid would give the House the benefit of their opinions.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. DEBOCHE could not see that the Government could have adopted a different course than the one proposed. He had not yet come to the conclusion about aid to railways. He had seen a great deal of good flowing from aid given in the past, and hoped it had not yet altogether ceased. He sympathized strongly with some of the gentlemen who had spoken, particularly the hon. member for North Bruce, and also the member for South Grey, and would have been very glad if their roads could have been assisted. He thought there were some roads now being projected that were deserving of aid. Chief among those was the Toronto and Ottawa, a road which would unite important centres and greatly facilitate trade. The Napanee and Tamworth road was also deserving of support as it was destined to open up valuable agricultural and mineral resources. There were other roads which were certainly entitled to assistance, and he was glad to hear that the Government did not say that they would not at some future time be in a position to grant railway aid. Reference had been made to a Government caucus, and rumour had it that there was another caucus—a caucus of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition.

Mr. MEREDITH—The hon. gentleman is mistaken. No caucus of the kind was held.

Mr. DEBOCHE—Well, if there was not we all know what would have been the result had there been a caucus. (Laughter.) The object of the Opposition seemed to be to hamper the Government, and to convey the impression that the Government and its supporters were divided. He was glad to know that the Government was one with its followers on this question, and he would cordially support the motion.

The SPEAKER declared the discussion out of order, as there was no motion before the Chair, and the matter was then allowed to drop.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Mr. MOWAT submitted a message from the Lieutenant-Governor asking for a further sum of \$10,000 towards bearing any expenses which may be incurred in maintaining the rights of the Province to the territory recently awarded, and in maintaining the constitutional rights of the Province in other matters.

#### ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Mr. MOWAT said it was a fitting thing that before the House adjourn they should pass an address of congratulation to His Excellency the Governor-General and Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise upon their escape from a recent accident. When the accident became known it excited a great deal of sympathy and concern on the part of the people, and of rejoicing that the injury received had not become more serious. He need not say that before His Excellency and Her Royal Highness came to this country there was a great deal of respect shown for him and his long line of noble ancestors, as well as for Her Royal Highness. Since their coming to the country that feeling had increased, and it was desirable that their stay amongst us should be a happy and a useful one. He moved the following resolution:—  
“That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, congratulating His Excellency on the providential escape of His Excellency and Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise from the alarming danger in which they were placed by a recent accident.”

Mr. MEREDITH had much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The motion was carried, and referred to a Select Committee composed of the Attorney-General, Messrs. Meredith, Morris, and Pardee, with instructions to prepare a report.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, from the Committee, reported on the address, which read as follows:—

“To the Right Honourable the Marquis of Lorne, K.C.B., Governor-General of Canada, etc., etc., etc.”

“May it Please Your Excellency.—We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, in session assembled, beg leave to express to Your Excellency our most sincere congratulations on the providential escape of Your Excellency and your illustrious consort, Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, from the alarming danger in which you were placed by your recent accident.

“The personal safety, welfare, and happiness of the representative and the daughter of our beloved Sovereign must ever be a matter of the most lively concern to the people of Ontario.

“We only echo the universal sentiments of those on whose behalf we are permitted to speak when we give utterance to a feeling of profound thankfulness that, in a moment of extreme peril, more serious consequences were averted, and to the earnest hope that, in a very short time, Her Royal Highness may be able, in fully recovered health, to receive the welcome that everywhere awaits her appearance among those to whom she has so greatly endeared herself.”

The address, having been read the second time,