

ment between the town of Ingersoll and the North and West Oxford Agricultural Society.

THE MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

The House went into Committee on the Bill of Hon. A. M. ROSS respecting the amounts past due and payable by certain municipalities upon the settlement made by statute of their debts to the Municipal Loan Fund.

Hon. A. M. ROSS moved a resolution affirming the principle of the Bill, which proposes to allow the Government the power to make agreements with the municipalities, reducing their liabilities if the Government see fit to do so.

Mr. MEREDITH wanted to know why the hon. gentleman could not let the matter lie over till next session. In the interval he could ascertain the terms and requirements of municipalities and the Government could deal with the matter next session.

Hon. A. M. ROSS stated that the action would be perfectly constitutional, would save time, and be much more convenient.

Mr. MERRICK said the House should not be bound to ratify an agreement after it was made. It would be necessary in order to upset the agreement to move a vote of want of confidence in the Government. The hands of members of both sides of the House would be tied.

Mr. MORRIS concurred in the observations which had come from his side of the House. He thought it was an objectionable action to take. The authority was clear that a Government had not power to compromise a debt, and afterwards to come down to ask the House to assent to the agreement.

Hon. O. MOWAT said there was no ground whatever for the alleged constitutional rule that his hon. friend referred to, and the House would perceive this from the fact that he had not cited one single authority, and it was well known he was always ready to do this. It would be a futile thing to bring this matter before the House beforehand, because any municipality might withdraw after the agreement was made, and before it could be ratified. The hon. gentleman said that in taking the course the Government proposed they would bring the influence of parties to support the resolution, but this was quite an imaginary distinction for two reasons: one that the Reform members voted according to the merits of any matter, no matter who brought it up; then if party did apply in that case it would apply just as much if it were brought up in the other form.

Mr. CREIGHTON said the authority of common sense ought to rule this matter. It seemed absurd that the Government should make the terms first, and then put their supporters in the position that if they did not sanction the agreement they would have to vote want of confidence. He thought there was no danger of the municipality backing out after the agreement was ratified by Parliament.

Mr. MEREDITH stated that the Government wanted the resolution passed in this shape in order that they might have something to dangle before the electors down in Cobourg, where an election was shortly coming off.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said that it was decided at the request of the Mayor and deputation from Cobourg, before the decision was given in the Northumberland election case, to adopt the course the Government were now proposing.

Mr. MULHOLLAND said that he must exonerate the Government from any political object in introducing the resolution. He would support the Government in the resolution.

The resolution was carried. The Bill was passed through Committee, and was reported without amendment.

THE SUNDAY OBSERVANCE BILL.

Mr. WOOD rose to state that by some oversight the Sunday Observance Bill had been left out of the Orders of the Day. He moved that the Bill should be inserted in its proper place.

Mr. FRASER stated that the regular practice in a case of this kind was to refer the Bill to a special Committee. After some discussion the Speaker ruled that the Bill should be inserted in the Orders of the Day for to-morrow.

THE LAND TRANSFER BILL.

Mr. MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill to simplify titles and to facilitate the transfer of land. He said:—This matter is of the greatest interest and importance to the people of the whole Province. It is a subject on which there is a good deal of general information, and which has occupied a considerable share of public attention for the last two years. I have received numerous deputations and petitions for legislation simplifying the transfer of land, from the great majority of the towns and from a number of other municipalities of the Province. An association has been formed for the purpose of bringing about this desired reform. To this association belong many lawyers and managers and representatives of the various public institutions concerned in the land laws of the country. The result has been that there is a general sentiment in favour of some such change as that proposed by the Bill. While we have had all this testimony on the one side, no petition oral or written has been presented against such a change. Not one communication has been received against it. How does the system which this Bill embodies improve the Land Law?

WHEREIN IS THE GREAT DIFFERENCE

between the system which the Bill provides for and the present Registry Laws? The difference

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Thursday, March 19.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

RETURN.

Hon. A. S. HARDY presented a return, showing the assets and liabilities of the several municipalities of the Province.

REFERRED BACK.

On motion of Mr. BALFOUR, the Bill to incorporate the St. Clair, Essex Central, & Erie Railway Company was referred back to Committee of the Whole for certain amendments, Mr. Baxter in the chair. The Committee rose and reported the Bill as amended.

THIRD READINGS.

Mr. Hardy—To make further provisions respecting private asylums for insane persons.

Mr. Fraser—In respect of certain sums of money ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be impounded in the hands of the Speaker.

Mr. Cook—To legalize and confirm an agree-