

especially to poor men. Another provision of the Act now objected to is that which prevents the engineer from including lands lying more than 50 rods above the commencement of the proposed ditch, and also the lands lying more than 50 rods on each side of it. The result of this is that appeals often are made against the engineer's decision, and costs are thereby incurred unnecessarily. Mr. Whitney, of Dundas, has been making a study of these matters and will introduce amendments to throw back the Act to what it originally was.

The Attorney-General was waited on yesterday afternoon by a deputation representing the Municipality of Dysart, in the District of Haliburton. They were Mr. A. Nevin, Haliburton, and H. O'Leary, Lindsay. They appeared in opposition to the change about to be made in the personnel of the Canada Land & Emigration Company, which was chartered 25 years ago. The company, which is now in liquidation, were granted 336,000 acres of land in Haliburton, on condition that they would bring out from the Old Country a certain number of settlers annually, and do other things in the interests of the district. Ten years ago, however, Dysart had 200 inhabitants, and to-day the population stands at 230, showing, as the members of the deputation pointed out, that the company had not been very active colonisers. Mr. O'Leary further told the Attorney-General that the settlers living on 27,000 acres pay \$4,300 of the taxes, while the company pay \$4,600 on the 336,000 acres which they own. The injustice of the situation was forcibly presented and the Government were asked to buy out the rights of the old company and take steps to settle the lands, or compel the new company to carry out the obligations attached to the original charter. In justice to the company, it is alleged that free grants interfered with their policy, and that consequently they were not able to carry out the conditions upon which they received their lands. The members of the proposed company are Mr. Lockhart Gordon, Toronto, and Mr. J. M. Irving, Peterboro'. Mr. Mowat said nothing as to the merits of the case, but promised to make an investigation into the whole affair.

Prominent members of the Opposition do not deny the rumor going around the House, that they intend to be more aggressive in their attacks on the Government this session than last. To be sure, they do not show many signs of the coming storm, their attitude so far being of that passive nature which portends no evil. They are thinking all the same, and those in their confidence declare that their thoughts are centred on the best and most effective way of attacking the license system. That the assault will be made is certain, but one difficulty in the way of Mr. Meredith is how to provide a substitute for that with which the country is apparently quite satisfied. Several of his own staunchest followers will not support the proposed plan of handing back the licensing power to the municipalities. It was hinted yesterday that the Opposition favors giving judges and similar officials the powers now conferred on the present License Commissioners, their argument being that the Act would be in this way shorn of its alleged partisan features as administered. The leader of the Opposition and his more intimate lieutenants were in close and earnest conversation yesterday, and it was understood that they were trying to come to some arrangement by which the Opposition can be committed to a definite line of policy on the licensing question without alienating the sympathy of their Temperance friends. They are yet on the banks of the Rubicon, and, taking all things into consideration, they may content themselves with firing without daring to cross. Dr. Willoughby is urging a fight with all his might, holding out promises that he will make things interesting if Mr. Meredith will take the initiative. The leader of the Opposition, however, is a more experienced politician than the new member for East Northumberland.

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