

and also \$100,000 per annum for twenty years. Although the original act establishing the fund of \$1,500,000 was passed on the 15th February, 1871, the former Government had only made two appropriations thereunder, namely, on the 14th October, 1871, for the short distance of railway between Collingwood and Meaford, and between Barrie and Orillia, while other applications were kept in suspense pending the general elections. Mr. Blake, as the Session proceeded, was able to consider and recommend to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and to submit to the House of Assembly for its ratification, no less than ten Orders in Council in respect of the following Railways, namely :

1. Toronto and Nipissing Railway Company, from Uxbridge to Cobocok.
2. Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway Company, between Harriston and Southampton.
3. Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company, between Kingston and a point 16 miles southerly from Pembroke.
4. Canada Central Railway Company, between Sandpoint and Pembroke.
5. Hamilton and Lake Erie Railway Company, between Hamilton and Jarvis.
6. Midland Railway Company, between Beaverton and Orillia.
7. Toronto, Simcoe and Muskoka Railway Company, between Orillia and Washago.
8. Grand Junction Railway Company, between Belleville and Lindsay.
9. Montreal and City of Ottawa Junction Railway Company, between the intersection of the Province line in Glengarry, and the City of Ottawa.
10. Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company, between Orangeville and Harriston, and between Orangeville and Owen Sound.

The larger portion of the works thus aided, were completed with reasonable expedition, and have tended greatly, through increased facilities of communication, to considerably advance the material interests of the Province, while the independence of the Legislative Assembly and their constitutional right and obvious duty of determining the appropriation of the public revenue were vindicated and secured. The independence of the Legislative Assembly was further protected by extending the cases of ineligibility of persons holding office under the Crown. Also by rendering members of the House of Commons ineligible for election as members of the Legislative Assembly, and also to allow all matters to be proved under oath before a Committee of the Legislative Assembly. It is to be remarked, that this measure (introduced by myself) was assented to on the 2nd March, 1872, and was not objected to by the Governor-General and his advisers at Ottawa, and that it went to the same extent as the Act passed by the Dominion Parliament on the 3rd May, 1873, and which by proclamation, dated 1st July, 1873, was dis-