

can make advances on warehouse receipts, is beyond the competency of this Parliament, and an improper interference with the Chattel Mortgage Act and the Bill of Sales Act of Ontario.

Bill read the first time.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. MULOCK moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 15) to amend the Consolidated Railway Act, 1879.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Will the hon. gentleman explain the purport of the Bill?

Mr. MULOCK. The object of the Bill is to somewhat secure the independent working of railway lines. The sixtieth section of the Consolidated Act permits railway companies of their own motion—that is on the consent of the companies themselves—to enter into certain working arrangements for a period not exceeding twenty-one years. During the existence of that arrangement those railways are, in fact, in partnership, and during that time there ceases to be that competition to secure which may have been the object of Parliament in incorporating one or more of them, or of the people in aiding them by bonus. The Bill is not aimed in any spirit of hostility at the railways, but is intended rather to provide an impartial tribunal, whereby the interests of the public may be considered before the railways can give effect to any such arrangement. The proposition of the Bill is that before any such arrangements shall have validity, it shall receive the sanction of the Governor in Council.

Bill read the first time.

CANADIAN CONSOLIDATED FIVE PER CENT. LOAN.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved that this House will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the following proposed Resolution:—

That it is expedient to authorize the Governor in Council to raise by way of loan, in addition to the sums now remaining unborrowed and negotiable of the loans authorized by Parliament, such sum or sums of money as may be required to pay and discharge the Canadian Consolidated five per cent. loan, raised under the fourteenth chapter of the Consolidated Statutes of the late Province of Canada, after deducting therefrom the amount held as a sinking fund for paying off the same; the rate of interest on the sums so to be raised by loan not to exceed four per cent. per annum.

Motion agreed to.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH BERMUDA

Mr. DALY enquired, Whether any correspondence has taken place between the Government of Great Britain and that of the Dominion relating to the establishment of telegraphic communication between Canada and Bermuda; and, if not, whether the Government will take into consideration the promotion of so desirable and important an undertaking?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There has been no such correspondence. This is a work which belongs more to the Imperial Government than to this Government, and it is likely, if it is required, that we may call their attention to it.

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Mr. HESSON, in moving for copies of all letters and papers between this Government and the Governments of Ontario and Quebec, from June 1st, 1882, up to the present, relating to the Land Improvement Fund, and all the unsettled accounts with the said Provinces; also, a Statement showing the present balances, if any, due to the said Provinces, including interest thereon up to January 1st 1883,

said: My object in moving for these papers is to urge again upon the Government and Parliament the desirability of settling these long standing accounts. The present unsatisfactory condition of the matter has caused very great annoyance to the municipalities interested in the funds—I refer more particularly to the Land Improvement Fund in which a portion of my own county is very deeply interested. I understand that some progress has been made towards a settlement during the past year, and I desire to be put in possession of all the information now obtainable regarding the matter. I observe that some unfair statements have been made charging the delay entirely to the Government of the Dominion. I am in possession of sufficient information to say that I believe there is no ground whatever for that charge. Unscrupulous politicians are at present making use of the statement that the delay has arisen because of the Dominion Government not paying to the Ontario Government the moneys held by them in trust for the benefit of these various funds. I may state, from information I have obtained, that the moneys that have been paid to the municipalities during the past year were paid by the Government of Ontario, although no funds of any kind are specially set apart for the payment of these accounts. And I gather from that fact that the Ontario Government was in a position, long prior to this year, to have made these payments from funds in their own possession. Advances and payments have been made by the Dominion Government generally on account, but not any special account; and, therefore, I fancy that I am correct in assuming that if the members in the Local House had been discharging their duty to their constituents, the moneys would have been paid before now. I am exceedingly anxious, however, that these accounts should be closed, and that this source of annoyance to the counties should be removed by their being paid the moneys they are entitled to. If this Government are in a position to pay any unsettled balance, I suppose they will do so, and I understand that statements are now being prepared which will show us distinctly what the fund is. I hope these papers will be brought down at an early day, because unfair representations are being made to damage the reputation of members of this House, and to shift the responsibility from the proper shoulders.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. There can be no objection to the passing of the motion of my hon. friend. I think the delay he has referred to has been occasioned to a very considerable extent by the fact that the accounts between the Province and the Dominion have not been finally settled. So far as the Dominion Government are concerned, they have been exceedingly anxious during the past two years that these accounts should be closed; but circumstances have prevented a settlement. I think, last year, our friends in Quebec were not prepared to take the subject up. In the early part of last year, the Government of Ontario, for a variety of reasons, were not prepared to take it up; but, finally, in September or October, representatives of the two Provinces met in Ottawa, and arrangements were entered into for the Dominion Government to prepare a statement from their standpoint for the Commissioners who were appointed to arbitrate upon the matter. Of course, the Legislature of Ontario met shortly after that, and the Legislature of Quebec is now in Session; but I have no doubt that as soon as the Legislature of Quebec is prorogued—I believe both parties are exceeding anxious, and as far as the Dominion Government is concerned, the papers are prepared—the case will be proceeded with, and we will have a final settlement of all these accounts, which will relieve my hon. friend and those interested from the difficulties they have experienced in the past.

Motion agreed to.