

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION.

MONDAY, FEB. 23.

THE SAULT STE. MARIE.

Mr. PARDEE moved that the petition for the incorporation of this company be laid on the table and read. He said the only objection made to the bill was that some said it would be too much in the interests of the western section of the province. This matter could not be ascertained till the bill was discussed in committee. It was difficult for a government to arrange the directorate to please all parties, but he hoped that such an arrangement would be arrived at. But it would not be sufficient ground to refuse aid to the railway because the directorate was not satisfactory to everybody, so long as the government secured equal running powers or other existing lines.

Mr. MORRIS agreed that the principal consideration was to secure a uniformity which would act as a feeder to the Ontario railway system. He trusted that the rival companies would come to some satisfactory arrangement. The motion was carried, and the petition was referred to the committee.

THE RAILWAY POLICY.

Mr. PARDEE—That this House will Tuesday resolve itself into a committee to consider the following resolutions:—Resolved, That, in respect to the policy of the government, hereinafter mentioned, shall be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the under-mentioned companies, for the purpose of constructing the portions of railways hereinafter mentioned, as follows, that is to say:—(1) The Erie and Huron Railway Company from London, on the north shore of Lake Erie, to the Wallaceburg branch from a point on the main line to the village of Wallaceburg, a distance of about thirty miles, at the rate of fifty dollars and seventy-five cents per mile per annum, payable half-yearly for twenty years, and the Stratford and Huron Railway Company, from Harrison to Warton, a distance of about sixty-two miles, at the rate of one hundred and fifty-three dollars and seventy-five cents per mile per annum, payable half-yearly for twenty years.

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The committee passed the greater part of the bill and read the report. THE SCHOOL LAW. Mr. CROOKS' bill respecting the school law, which was introduced by the Committee of the Whole, the 14th clause was struck out, and the legislation affecting the conditions on which the school grants are to be made. The House adjourned at 11.15 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1. The following bills were read a third time and passed:— To amend the Ontario Drainage Act.—Mr. Fraser. To make provision for the greater safety of railway employees and the public.—Mr. Fraser. To consolidate the debt of the town of Windsor.—Mr. White. Respecting the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway Company.—Mr. Avey. Respecting the Midland Railway of Canada.—Mr. Peck. To amend the Whitty, Port Perry, and Lindsay Railway Company.—Mr. Paxton. To amend the law respecting the registration of births, marriages, and deaths.—Mr. Haskins.

GRAND JUNCTION RAILWAY. Mr. BOULTER moved that the bill respecting the Grand Junction railway be referred to the Railway Committee with instructions to extend their line as far east as the Canada Central. Mr. BOULTER said the ground was already covered by the Toronto and Ottawa railway charter, and the Railway Committee had come to the conclusion that the promoters of the Grand Junction railway were not in earnest in applying for this extension. Mr. BOULTER said he was authorized to state that the promoters were in earnest, and that the bill was introduced for the purpose of settling the safe and orderly transmission of timber over or through the works of the company, and that the navigation therewith connected. He thought Mr. McLaughlin's private improvements were to be given over to public use, he placed in a worse position than that of a stock company. He considered the suggestion of his hon. friend from London a very reasonable one.

Mr. MILLER said that taking away such an absolutely free grant of land was a great deal of confusion and trouble. For instance, a man having say ten thousand acres, where there were a large number of rapids over which it would be difficult to get logs, he inclined to let the water out, but he would not do so if he had to get the logs over a dam. Another lumberman with twenty thousand acres might be behind him, but not up to the reserve, who would be stopped if he acted in that way. It would be better to have the control in the owner of the lands, and make him responsible for the proper use of the water, and it would often happen that the owner would be the lumberman. He had thought that the bill would be practically left to the owner. Mr. PARDEE said that the bill gave the control to the owner, and that it was the common law the owner had the control of his improvements, but the bill said that the exclusive right of the improvements did not belong to the owner, and that everybody could use them on paying for it. It was only right that they should be used during the spring, autumn, and summer freshets, and it was to be supposed that during the continuance of the freshets there would be water enough to bring all parties down.

Mr. MEREDITH said the hon. gentleman looked at the question from an entirely different point of view, but Mr. McLaughlin was only the owner of the rights in streams. In cases where there was only sufficient water to float down the logs of the river, it was his duty to allow the water to go to the stream. He thought that the traffic should be subject to proper regulation. He thought the bill was the right one, and that it would be well to send small telegraph poles, railway ties, and jam up the sides. Mr. MILLER pointed out that in cases where the owner got ahead of others in a side, there was nothing in the bill to prevent him letting out the water and preventing the logs from coming down. However, it was a difficult matter in the lumber trade. He apprehended most trouble from the small streams.

Mr. COOK said it would be an unfortunate thing for the Government if they attempted to take these river works into their own hands. He thought the bill was a suggestion. Mr. FRASER said the statement of the hon. member for Muskoka almost settled the question. In nine cases out of ten he said all the parties were together, and the Government was behind them generally. Mr. PARDEE, after making some verbal observations, moved that the bill be amended so as to provide that the tolls imposed should be a lien on the lumber, recoverable before a magistrate, who, in default of payment, might seize the lumber to secure the tolls. The period during which the lumber is liable to seizure was limited to one month. Mr. MEREDITH moved an amendment, providing that persons entitled to toll might from time to time make in regard to the control of the traffic, which should be referred to the sanction of the Government Council.

Mr. PARDEE said he would require time to consider the amendment, and he therefore moved that the committee rise, and ask leave to sit again. THE TAVERN AND SHOP LICENSES. Mr. HARDY's resolution fixing the rate for taverns and shop licenses were carried. THE LIQUOR LAW. The House again went into Committee of the Whole on the bill relating to the liquor law. Mr. ROSS suggested that shop licenses should be granted to places where nothing but the sale of liquor was done. The suggestion was negatived. The House again went into committee on the bill to amend the liquor law. Mr. AVEY moved an amendment giving to the Industrial Exhibition of Toronto power to have one licensed place at the exhibition where lager and beer could be sold.

The motion being opposed by Messrs. Gibson (Hamilton), Young, and Miller, on the ground that it made a special exception in favour of Toronto, was withdrawn. Mr. MEREDITH said that during his absence the Provincial Secretary had claimed that the bill had given great satisfaction to the country, and he had quoted figures to show that a greater percentage of Conservatives had received licenses than Liberals. He said the figures might be true, but the Government had nevertheless the power to bring grieve to the bill because the mouths of the Conservatives had received licenses without speaking politically, or because they had been withdrawn, or because they had been refused. He was contented to say that the law would be received with great satisfaction in the country if the Boards of License Commissioners were not exclusively composed of political supporters of the Government. There was no reason at all for not giving Conservatives seats on these boards.

panies were new schemes, and could not therefore be aided. As to the future policy of the Government, he would give effect to public opinion, which was given a halt in the matter of aiding railways. Finally the Government asked authority to give effect to public opinion in the matter of Mar. No particular road was mentioned, but it must be a neutral one. Some years ago the Government had authorized aid to the extent of \$8,000,000 to the south-east bay of Lake Nipissing, and as this had not been built, the Government were only transferring the same to the South St. Marie, and would be extending 300 miles of a colonization road for the same to the extent of \$14,000,000. Mr. MEREDITH protested against the course pursued by the Government in bringing down this measure at the close of the session. The Government had always pursued this course, which prevented the House giving due consideration to the scheme. He desired to see the Government in the north and north-west of Ontario, and public opinion since last session. On that occasion the Government proposed to aid the railways, but were forced by a caucus of their supporters to refuse this measure of justice.

Mr. DEROCHÉ condemned the Government for not having the Napanee and Tamworth-Bathurst Railway. He thought the equities of the other cases attached to these lines. The western roads were not only a great deal longer, but they passed through a country which was a perfect network of railways, and these roads the Government were to build. He thought the Government were not to be just, and he felt it to be his duty to refuse to support the resolution. Mr. LONG thought that the Stratford and Huron and the Georgian Bay and Wellington were not to be both aided, as they ran within a few miles of each other. He was opposed to the change of Government policy in regard to the South St. Marie railway on the Liberal party doing in the House of Commons, which was the place to discuss this matter. They were keeping perfectly quiet about it, and the Government were not to vote against these resolutions, but the Opposition, in their desire not to give the Government a special gratuity, were unanimous on the subject, would support them. (Hear, hear.) Mr. LAUDER said the hon. gentleman kicked very much at being compelled to do right. The House was asked to repeat their declaration of last session, and if it were untrue, it would be untrue. He was not in favour of the resolutions, but the Opposition were not actuated in this matter by any other motive than to protect the Georgian Bay and Wellington and Stratford and Huron railways, and moved a resolution that the Government should be asked to withdraw the resolutions, and that the Government should be asked to support the resolutions. (Hear, hear.)

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Committee of the Whole, was read a third time and passed. THE BOUNDARY AWARD. Mr. MOWAT moved, 1. That this House do hereby resolve that notwithstanding the award made on the 3rd of August, 1878, by the arbitration commission, and the joint and concurrent action of the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario, the Government of Ontario should be asked to confirm the award in its boundaries of this province. The award made by the Government of Ontario and the Dominion Parliament for the purpose of settling the boundary between the Province of Ontario and the Province of Canada to confirm the award is attended with grave inconvenience, has the effect of retarding settlement and municipal organization, and interferes with the preservation of the peace, the maintenance of order, and the well-being of good government in the north and north-west of Ontario, and the Province of Ontario. 2. That it is the duty of the Government of Ontario to assert and maintain its claims and rights in the Province of Ontario as determined by the award of the arbitrators; and this House re-affirms its determination to give effect to the award of the arbitrators in any step it may be necessary to take to sustain the award, and to assert and maintain its claims and rights in the Province as thereby awarded, and determined by the award of the arbitrators. Mr. MEREDITH said the question was one which was likely to raise the prejudices of the people of Ontario, because they thought the acquisition of so much territory would materially alter the relative position of the Province of Ontario in the Dominion Government, therefore, were entitled to the utmost consideration in dealing with this delicate subject. If the Hon. member for Toronto would ratify the award, the present Administration was entitled to take time to consider it. What were the supporters of the Liberal party doing in the House of Commons, which was the place to discuss this matter? They were keeping perfectly quiet about it, and the Government were not to vote against these resolutions, but the Opposition, in their desire not to give the Government a special gratuity, were unanimous on the subject, would support them. (Hear, hear.)

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Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) moved an amendment to the amendment, "that this House, while concurring in said resolution, expresses the opinion that the charter and institutions to which the moneys mentioned in the resolution are devoted are preposterous and laudable." Mr. MEREDITH said the official hand of the Commissioner of Public Works in his last statement, which evaded the real question of the public institutions required for the country poor gravitated towards the cities, but still there was some unfairness in the distribution. Middleton and Lennox had extensive poorhouses, and it seemed unfair that they should receive nothing. Mr. HAY concurred to a certain extent in Mr. GIBSON's view. Mr. MORRIS said that an important fact to be borne in mind was that the hospitals did not depend entirely or even mainly upon the Government for support, and moreover that they were not benefits only to the cities, but to the poor of the country at large. He would not support the amendment, but he would support it with the next session of the House. Mr. ROSS (Huron) said that the constantly increasing expenditure due to the grants given to the public institutions required for the country poor was a matter of great importance. He approved of the principle of payment according to the work done. At present the city institutions got nearly the whole of the grants. Some of the hospitals, were necessarily established in large communities, and were of general good. But some were really purely local, and were grouped smaller ones purely local in character, and not deserving of provincial aid. Mr. LAUDER was very glad that the annual discussions upon the subject had led to a result in something definite. Previous to the present session the Hon. member for Toronto, the Government's present position against the existing anomalies, and he complimented the members for Hamilton, Renfrew, and Huron upon the stand they had taken in the question generally, the hospitals stood in a totally different position to the other institutions. Mr. FRASER said that there was evident in the remarks of Mr. Lauder an ill-concealed vein of feeling. He was discussing this subject with a special eye to the prejudice of the Roman Catholic institutions. Mr. LAUDER—Order. I call the hon. gentleman to order. I never introduced that subject. Mr. FRASER—I say that the hon. gentleman has gone through the figures and statistics in connection with the hospitals, and with a view to injuring the Roman Catholic ones, and he thinks that if all the institutions but the hospitals were done away with, the Roman Catholics would be prejudiced. Mr. LAUDER—Order! Mr. SPEAKER ruled Mr. Fraser to be in order. Mr. FRASER hoped that the hon. gentleman would not interrupt him again. He had not intended to touch a word on the hon. gentleman's remarks. The hon. gentleman was consistent in his remarks, and his whole aim had been for some time past to injure the Roman Catholics. Mr. Merrett said that he had made remarks to the same effect. When at Orillia last fall he had in a public speech announced that he (Mr. Merrett) was going to bring this aspect of the matter before Parliament. Mr. MERRICK—That is not true. Mr. FRASER—I will prove it from THE MAIL of September 12, 1880. Mr. MERRICK—You cannot. Mr. FRASER said for a file of THE MAIL, but he was unable to find any article which had attributed to Mr. Merrett. Mr. MERRICK said that the hon. gentleman should now apologise for his statement. Mr. FRASER—Get me a Globe. (Laughter.) The Globe could not be found. Mr. FRASER said that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Merrett) said that he had not made the remarks, it would be sufficient. Mr. MERRICK said that Mr. Fraser had made a deliberate statement to the effect that he could prove from the columns of THE MAIL that he (Mr. Merrett) had made a certain statement. This Mr. Fraser had failed to prove, and should apologise. (Hear, hear.) The SPEAKER said that Mr. Fraser had practically apologized already. Mr. MERRICK with reference to certain statements which had been made during the debate, said that St. Catharines had not received a single fraction of the Government grant for its poorhouses, and that the hon. member had gone entirely to outsiders. He gave figures to prove this. Moreover, the hon. member's peculiar position as to the percentage of grant that he did, even if the grants to Toronto, Kingston, and other cities had to be reduced. Mr. BELL said that there were many details in regard to the annual grants which should be looked into. For instance, the class of persons who were entitled to the grants, and the manner in which they were distributed. Mr. Fraser's attempt to make the question a religious one, was greatly to be deprecated. Mr. MEREDITH with reference to certain statements which had been made during the debate, said that St. Catharines had not received a single fraction of the Government grant for its poorhouses, and that the hon. member had gone entirely to outsiders. He gave figures to prove this. Moreover, the hon. member's peculiar position as to the percentage of grant that he did, even if the grants to Toronto, Kingston, and other cities had to be reduced. Mr. BELL said that there were many details in regard to the annual grants which should be looked into. For instance, the class of persons who were entitled to the grants, and the manner in which they were distributed. Mr. Fraser's attempt to make the question a religious one, was greatly to be deprecated. 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