

Alberta were suitable chiefly for grazing purposes, that in fact they were almost valueless without access to water, and that to make grants to railway companies of every alternate section would be to spoil both the sections so granted and those which remained for homestead purposes.

An Act (49 Vic., cap. 12) was accordingly passed, authorizing the Governor in Council to grant railway land subsidies in tracts of a township each, on setting apart lands elsewhere for the purposes of school endowment, and on the change being assented to by the Hudson's Bay Company, who were to receive lands of equal value elsewhere.

The Hudson's Bay Company have decided to accept this arrangement, and the object of the present Bill is to enable the Governor in Council to deal with all the lands in the township (exclusive of the Hudson's Bay Company's sections) in the manner originally intended.

The House will see the land has been granted in aid of these railways in the North-west, but upon these conditions, and the Hudson's Bay Company having declined to accede to this proposition, we now ask that the Governor in Council have power to deal with the townships, less the Hudson's Bay section. I beg leave to introduce a Bill intitled: "An Act relating to the granting of subsidies in land to Railway Companies."

The Bill was read the first and second time, under a suspension of the Rules.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

On the first Clause.

Hon. Mr. POWER—With respect to those school lands, those which are to be substituted for them in the townships, may not be in such a suitable place.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It says of equal value.

Hon. Mr. POWER—But they may not be as convenient.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—This proposition does not propose to interfere with the law on the Statute-book as it stands so far as it relates to the school lands, and hon. gentlemen will see that it will be advisable, in the interests of the school fund, if this section of the country is only fitted for grazing purposes, to have their property in some other portion of the territory where settlement will be likely to take place.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY, from the Committee, reported the Bill without amendment.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time and passed.

FREIGHT RATES AND INTEREST ON LOANS IN THE N. W. T.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I desire to call the Government's attention to the fact that there is all over the North-west Territories a feeling that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are charging excessive rates on the products of the farm going out of the country and on some articles coming into the country. I am aware, and other hon. gentlemen of this House know that the Government of Canada has given a large grant both in lands and money towards the building of that railway, and rendered such other assistance as was in their power. That I think was quite right, and I heartily approve of it, but in a large portion of that country there is no competition to reduce their rates. I understand there is a provision that the Government have something to say about those freight rates. Inasmuch as the settlers of that country feel that they are aggrieved, that they are paying excessive rates, it would be but right and fair for the Government to make proper inquiry to ascertain if such is the case, and if it is found that the rates are excessive, the Government should cause them to be reduced. We are entirely at the mercy of the corporation. Whether they charge too much or not, I am not prepared to say, but there is a widespread feeling all over the country that the rates are excessive. It is but fair that the Government should look into the matter, and, if such is the case, see that redress is granted to the people of that country. I hope this will be done during the recess. We are willing to pay what is right and fair, but I do not think we should pay excessive rates, and the Government should act as a medium between the company and the people of that country to see that proper rates are fixed. Next session I shall enquire if the Government have investigated this matter. I call the attention of the Government to this matter in order that they may see that justice is done to the settlers. There is another matter to which I wish to call attention, namely, the rate of interest charged to farmers in that new country. Of necessity many poor people are going into that country, and many who