

count that this Department is managed under laws passed by the Legislature for its direction. There is a law relating to timber lands which provides for the granting of licenses therefor, and describes the manner in which those licenses shall be granted. He had no authority to impose any other conditions than those specified in the law. The object of those who framed the statute seemed to be to produce the greatest amount of money by the disposal of timber licenses, and hon. gentlemen would see that a greater revenue had been derived this year from the sale of those licenses than in any one previous year. The revenue from Crown lands was gradually diminishing, and if it were not for the money derived from the issue of timber licenses there would be a great falling off in the receipts of the Department. The decrease of revenue from Crown lands, he had explained, arose from the fact that the best class of lands had been disposed of, and that which now remained had to be sold at a lower price per acre. Hon. gentlemen might explain or cloak it as they pleased, but this was the fact. With regard to the timber, he had felt it his duty to do what he could to prevent settlers from going upon timber lands, which generally were not well fitted for settlement. Persons sometimes applied for lots as settlers, when their main object was to get control by that means of the timber. If the hon. member for Peterborough would go into the Department he would find numerous applications there from those who had obtained timber licenses for the interference of the Government in their behalf with parties taking up lots within their limits under pretence of settlement, but really for the purpose of cutting timber. He had no doubt but that there was too much reason for those complaints. Such bogus settlers often committed much havoc among the timber, by carelessly allowing fire to spread through the forests. He was informed that unless the timber was cut down inside of a year after fire ran through it, such timber was perfectly useless. In this country we had the largest and finest white pine timber forests in the world. Prussia was supposed to hold pre-eminence in this respect, but the amount of that kind of timber was very rapidly decreasing in that country, and white pine was in consequence bringing in very high prices. There were tracts in Canada however containing hundreds of thousands of acres of white pine—then other tracts of hundreds of thousands of acres of red pine, and other vast regions again of different classes of timber, principally hardwood, but none of it of much market value. The proper policy seemed to be not to open the tracts of lands to settlement that were not well adapted to the support of agricultural populations. During the last season, he had instructed the surveyors to prepare a map from their field notes, marking thereon the sections of country that were covered with the different species of timber, in such a manner that the character of the timber might be seen at a glance. He had withheld from sale many townships when the evidence went to show that the lands were more suitable for lumbering than for agricultural purposes. That was a power which the department possessed, and he would be very much pleased to receive as much information, and as many suggestions as a Committee of the House could give him. He would be very glad to have a clause added to the motion giving the Committee instructions to inquire into matters affecting the interests of lumbermen, and the due protection of timber.

Mr. MORRIS said he was quite willing to add such a clause, but his principal object in bringing forward this motion was to direct the attention of the Government and the country to the immense tracts of land lying beyond the pine country, that were fit for settlement, and that would yet contain a large and hardy population. He then read from the Crown Lands Report of 1856, to the effect that there were three different ranges of country in that territory—the white pine, the red pine, and then the hardwood country. The hardwood tract was one hundred and thirty by seventy-five miles in extent, and contained 4,000,000 acres of land suitable for cultivation. This was unquestionably the best section of country for the growth of wheat now remaining unoccupied east of Lake Huron. It had the advantage of a summer upwards of a month longer than this section of country.

After a few remarks from Messrs. Cauchon, Conger, and Price, the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Cauchon in relation to the timber lands was adopted, and the motion was carried.

ARRANGING THE BUSINESS.

Hon. Mr. DORION moved the appointment of a Select Committee to assist the Speaker in making proper arrangements for the distribution and disposal of the business before the House; such Committee to be composed of Hon. Messrs. J. S. Macdonald, Turcotte, J. A. Macdonald, Carrier and Brown, and Messrs. Dunlop and Morris.—Carried.

BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB.

Hon. Mr. BROWN moved for a Select Committee to inquire and report as to the best mode of providing for the instruction of blind persons and deaf mutes in this Province; with power to send for persons, papers and records.—Carried.

THE CENSUS.

Hon. Mr. BROWN moved for a Select Committee to consider the manner in which the Census was recently taken up, and the best mode of securing greater accuracy and completeness in the returns; said Committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records.—Carried.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Mr. DUNKIN moved that the order for proceeding with his Bill should be discharged, and that it should be referred to a Select Committee composed of Hon. Mr. Foley, and Messrs. Chapais, Somerville, A. Mackenzie, Simpson, J. B. E. Dorion, T. Ferguson, De Boucherville, Brousseau, Pope, Scatcherd, Remillard, Cowan, J. Macdonald, McConkey, Burwell, J. Dufresne, LaJoie and the mover. He remarked that a number of amendments to the measure had been desired by various hon. gentlemen, and the best way to introduce them would be by means of a committee of this kind.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE.

On motion of Mr. NOTMAN, the House went into Committee on the Bill respecting Actions of Seduction, and the support of Illegitimate Children. Some amendments were made, and the Committee rose and reported.

PRINTING OF BILLS.

The SPEAKER then read over the names of the several hon. gentlemen having Bills before the House which had been laid over from last session; in order to ascertain what Bills required to be reprinted. Only two of the whole number (114) were dropped, when—

Hon. Mr. DORION moved that all the Bills left on the list, be printed.—Carried.

As there was no business of consequence to proceed with, pending the printing of the Bills, the House adjourned for the day, at ten minutes to six o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, March 8, 1864.

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Among the petitions presented, fourteen were in favor of the enactment of the Temperance Bill of 1863.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND BURIALS.

The SPEAKER laid before the House Returns of the Births, Marriages, and Burials in the Counties of Yamaska, Montcalm, and Saguenay.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, brought up a report, showing that the notices required by the rules of the House, in respect of the several Bills therein mentioned, with one exception, had been duly published.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were then introduced and read a first time:—

By Hon. Mr. SANBORN—Bill to amend the charter of the Eastern Townships' Bank; also, Bill to incorporate the Sherbrooke Mining and Smelting Company; also,

Bill to incorporate the Belvidere Mining and Smelting Company.

By Hon. Mr. ROSS—Bill to enable Maria Murney to dispose of a certain portion of the real estate of the late E. Murney, and for other purposes; also,

Bill to incorporate the British Bank.

By Hon. Mr. OLIVIER—Bill to incorporate and continue the Parish of St. Gabriel de Brandon as a Municipality.

By Hon. Mr. CURRIE—Bill for the relief of the Western Permanent Building Society.

By Hon. Mr. DE LA TERRIERE—Bill to amend the Act forming Chapter 3 of the Consolidated Statutes.

By Hon. Mr. FERGUSSON BLAIR—Bill to regulate the office hours of the Clerks of County Courts in Upper Canada.

THE LATE EXPLOSION.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE said if the Hon. Minister of Agriculture would waive the usual notice, he would ask whether the Government had taken steps to watch the inquiry now going on into the causes of the late lamentable and fatal explosion.

Hon. Mr. LE TELLIER DE ST. JUST replied that the matter was one which entirely

related to the Imperial Government with whom he thought the Provincial Government was not called upon to interfere.

Hon. Mr. CHISTIE said the Hon. Minister had misapprehended his meaning. He had reference simply to the Coroner's inquest which was being proceeded with.

Hon. Mr. LE TELLIER then said the Coroner was an officer of the Government and was now engaged in holding an inquest, and no doubt would do his duty faithfully.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said that some time ago he had inquired from the Hon. Provincial Secretary, whether it was probable that some of the measures of the Government promised in His Excellency's Speech from the Throne would be introduced through this hon. House, and the answer of the hon. member, as he understood it, was to the effect that some of those measures would probably be so introduced. The hon. member had now submitted a Bill relating to the regulation of the office hours of Clerks of the County Courts in Upper Canada, and he [Mr. Campbell] wished to ask whether that was one of the Government measures promised? whether it might be regarded as an instalment of those promised? No doubt the Bill was of importance, but he hardly thought the hon. member had reference to such Bills when he led the House to anticipate that some of the great measures of the Government would be introduced here. The House was kept comparatively unoccupied during several of the first weeks of each session awaiting the action of the other branch, and he thought the convenience of the Legislature and the interests of the country would be served if the Government availed itself of the talents of its members in dealing with some of the measures promised. He knew there were Bills like those imposing taxation and dealing with finance which in the nature of the case must originate in the other House; there were measures also relating to constitutional questions, and which might be used as tests of the confidence of that House in the Government which had to be dealt with there, but then there were others which might very properly commence in this branch. The hon. member here quoted from His Excellency's Speech to show that there were measures of pure law, as he might call them, which could be treated in this House, with the requisite ability, as there were hon. members in it every way as well qualified to do to as any in the other branch, and he trusted the Hon. Provincial Secretary would see the propriety of occupying the time of the House meanwhile with other than strictly private Bills.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSSON BLAIR said his hon. friend had certainly remarked on a certain occasion that it would subserve the convenience of the House if some of the Government measures were introduced in it, when he [Mr. Blair] had acquiesced in the remark, but he certainly did not think he had made any promise or pledge on the subject. With regard to the Bill he had submitted, it was not a public measure at all. It had been sent to him from Upper Canada, and he had introduced it, as any other member would. It would, no doubt, be desirable that the time of the House should be better occupied, but the inconvenience complained of had always existed, at the beginning of the sessions, and he feared it would continue to be so in future. The Government were not only responsible for their measures, but for carrying them through, and the time, and place, and persons by whom they were to be introduced and cared for, must be left to them to choose. He had, no doubt, the hon. member would be quite ready to give his help in the perfecting of such measures, but then he was not responsible for his advice, and probably if their positions were reversed, he would not think it so desirable that he [Mr. Blair] should be so pressing.—[Just at the point the hon. member was not very audible.] He thought it probable, however, that some of the measures foreshadowed in His Excellency's Speech would be introduced in this House, and meanwhile, the hon. member must try to exercise patience. [Laughter.]

BILLS OF LAST SESSION.

The House was occupied for some time after this in reading *pro forma* a first, second, and third time the Bills of last session which had passed, and were pending in the other branch, but which it had been deemed necessary to put through their several stages to avoid the possible danger of irregularity.

The House then adjourned.