

case the hon. gentleman followed no man living. He supposed he followed the ghost of Robert Baldwin. He proceeded to advert to the fact that he (Mr. Richards) had not remained true to Reform principles as others of his name had done.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS again interrupted to say that he did not recognize the member for East Toronto as his leader.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE said that in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred he always acted in unison with the member for East Toronto. The hon. gentleman referred to a certain institution on King-street. If that institution was an exponent of the principles held by them, there was another printing institution on King-street which was an exponent of the views of the hon. gentleman opposite, and if he was satisfied with his institution they

were with theirs. As to the question under discussion it appeared to him that a man of straw had been put up which they were called upon to knock down. He had watched the arguments of the gentleman from Niagara, and he did not think there was much difference in their views. He had admitted that when a member of the House resigned his seat in the House, a reasonable time was allowed him before he took the next step.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said the hon. gentleman was attributing language to him which he had not used. What he said was, that if a member of the Government had gone to his constituency seeking election, and had been defeated, a reasonable time should be allowed him to seek re-election. But he never said that if a Minister thought proper to resign his seat in the House, and indicated thereby that he intended to retire from public life so far as this House was concerned, that he, having taken his decisive step, should be allowed any further time to decide what he was going to do; because he had already decided that he would retire.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE said that when Messrs. Blake and Mackenzie resigned their seats and were elected to the House of Commons they were in just as good a position as any member who sought re-election. These gentlemen were in a position to be re-elected if they wanted to. He believed it had been conceded by the ablest lawyers that the Costigan Bill would not prevent them from seeking re-election after being elected to the Commons. That being the case, they were entitled to a reasonable time before taking the next step. That next step might have been re-election. What did they find to be the facts? Mr. Blake heard of his election for South Bruce in the second week in September. Immediately after that he despatched his resignation.

Mr. RYKERT—He did not resign his seat in the House.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE agreed with the Premier that it was the bounden duty of Mr. Blake's colleagues to withhold his resignation till Mr. Blake arrived, in order that his Excellency might have his advice in forming his Cabinet. On the whole, he thought there was no constitutional principle involved, and that the object of this resolution was to do a little damage to Messrs. Blake and Mackenzie, and gain, if possible, a little popularity.

Mr. LAUDER charged the Government with being a coalition, and with being under the dictation of THE GLOBE. He supported the motion, and addressed the House for a considerable length of time on subjects entirely irrelevant to the matter before the House, going over his old catalogue of charges against the Government.

Mr. PRINCE thought this resolution was entirely unnecessary.

Dr. BOULTER was of opinion that Mr. Blake should have left his resignation as Executive Councillor at the same time that he left his resignation as a member of the Legislature.

It being 6 o'clock,

Attorney-General MOWAT suggested that this matter be disposed of now.

Mr. CAMERON—No; let it take its course.

RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS laid on the table a copy of the Public Accounts for 1872.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE laid on the table all correspondence and Orders in Council respecting the establishment of additional Normal Schools.

Also—A statement of the number of first, second, and third class certificates issued in 1872, and the number of applicants who failed to obtain certificates.

Also—All correspondence and Orders in Council respecting the Agricultural College. The House then rose.

After recess.

CANADA LANDED CREDIT COMPANY.

On motion of Mr. BETHUNE, the Bill to amend the Act passed in the 22nd year of Her present Majesty's reign, cap. 133, and intitled, "An Act to incorporate the Canada Landed Credit Company," and to extend the powers conferred upon the said Company, was read a second time.

INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.

Mr. CLARKE (Wellington), moved a second reading of Bill for the protection of insectivorous birds beneficial to agriculture.

Mr. DEACON moved an amendment striking out the provision of the Bill which enacted that the gun or rifle of the person shooting these birds should be forfeited.

The amendment was lost on a division, and the Bill was after further amendment reported by the Committee.

BALLOT.

Mr. CLARKE (Wellington), moved the second reading of the Bill to provide for taking votes by ballot at elections of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. He said that twenty-five years ago the ballot was one of the planks of the Reform platform. It had been adopted by many other countries, including several of the British Provinces. He trusted that the Ballot box would be introduced at the same time as the extension of the franchise proposed by the Commissioner of Public Works. He read extracts from the press of both parties speaking of the corruption which existed at elections. His opinion was that much of the corruption arose under the open vote system through bribery and intimidation. The Bill he introduced was founded on the laws in force in England and Australia, where they had worked with great success. The system he proposed was not purely secret, but was carried out by the use by each elector of a numbered ticket, a corresponding number being recorded in the poll-book, the returning officer and his clerks being sworn to secrecy. The advantage of this system was that whereas a voter voted without publicity, his vote could, should necessity arise, be traced.

Mr. WOOD said it was acknowledged theoretically that the people should be unbiased at elections by any influence except their political feelings; and how best to secure this desirable end was a most important subject. In England the ballot system was as yet merely an experiment. In the Australian colonies the system had been in force about twelve years and was claimed to have done away with bribery, and even with canvass for votes. The sum of all the evidence was that it was a vast improvement over the open system. The Commissioner of Agriculture proposed to create a class of voters hitherto unknown in this country or in England. The country was just as near the verge of manhood suffrage as it possibly could be, and unless some provision were made that all voters will cast their votes according to the best of their judgment, great evil, he thought, would arise. The measure before the House was of the utmost importance, so important that the responsibility of it should not be allowed to rest with a private member. No doubt the gentleman who had brought this measure down, had framed his Bill ably, but he presumed he did not expect it to pass into law. He (Mr. W.) would inform the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, that he was opposed to the fancy franchise which he proposed under the present voting law. He was in favour of a system of secret voting. He would vote for the second reading on the understanding that it was not to be further urged this session.

Mr. BOULTBEE said there had been no demand in the country for such an important change. The hon. member for Brant seemed to think that all the bribery in the country was only on the side opposed to him. He (Mr. B.) knew from experience that nothing of the kind was true, but that it was pretty general on both sides. (Laughter.) No elections were conducted with greater corruption than those of the United States, where the ballot was in force, and where it was blamed for most of that corruption. The ballot in England had been introduced simply because a popular clamour had arisen for it. He agreed with the member for Brant that such a Bill should be introduced by the Government.

Mr. RYKERT said he had heard a rumour that this measure had come from one of the Departments, and as he saw Mr. McKellar's name on the back of the papers respecting the Australian law he was convinced of the fact. He called the attention of the Government to the fact that all such important measures