

assist in making that amendment to the law. The Bill before the House had been prepared with great care, and he hoped that at an early day the Government would take up the matter and pass a law on the subject.

Mr. DEROCHE said that as far as his experience went the general opinion of all shades of politics was in favour of the ballot system, as being one tending to abolish corruption and bribery. He knew of many cases in which the influence of lumber merchants and other large employers of labour exercised an undue influence upon their employees in election matters. Mortgage-holders also had it in their power to control the votes of unfortunate mortgagors.

Mr. PRINCE wondered how it was possible that the hon. member for East Toronto could go against this Bill. Sir John A. Macdonald, the political chief of that hon. gentleman, when he refused to introduce the Contested Election Law into the Dominion election, stated, in fact, that he intended to bribe all the ridings. He (Mr. Prince) was in favour of this measure.

Mr. McMANUS was of opinion that there was ten times as much corruption in the United States under the ballot system as under our election law; and read from a New York paper an extract stating that in some of the wards of that city there were many more votes cast than there were inhabitants.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) contradicted Mr. Prince's statement as to Sir John A. Macdonald's action in reference to the election law. He believed that if a good election law had been in force Ontario would have returned a majority to the Ottawa Government.

Mr. ROBINSON instanced the case of his own election, where men employed by the Grand Trunk and by the Government were brought up against their will to vote for his opponent. He hoped that some measure such as the one now under discussion would soon be passed, as the country was prepared for it. He advised the promoter of the Bill to push it through. In reference to the Grand Trunk influence he could say that the employees of that company were most strongly coerced to vote for Sir John Macdonald.

Dr. CLARKE strongly supported the ballot system, which he stated had been one of the planks in his election platform.

Mr. FRASER thought that a good deal of valuable testimony had been given in favour of the Bill. He strongly supported the Bill, and pointed out several cases of gross corruption on the part of the Dominion Government, which the ballot would have prevented. He showed the defects in the ballot system in the United States, and explained how it could not be regarded as secret voting.

Mr. LAUDER gave some reminiscences of his own election contest, as well as of the Welland election, respecting which he said that Mr. King's friends were obliged to use money in self-defence. He believed the feeling in the country was growing in favour of the ballot. He was willing to try it.

Mr. SINCLAIR replied to some of the statements of the member for South Grey, and expressed himself in favour of the Bill.

Attorney-General MOWAT said one or two gentlemen opposite had referred to the fact that he had not spoken upon this subject at an early stage of the debate. It was not required by the Government that they should at once express their views upon any Bill introduced by a private member. That was entirely discretionary with the Government. He rejoiced that he had not earlier spoken upon this subject, because they had now a very valuable discussion, and they had found a very general opinion in favour of the measure, which was not influenced by any expression of opinion on the part of the Government. It was not long ago that this measure would have been considered a most revolutionary one; now so far from being considered in that light it was supported by some Conservatives. He was not going to discuss the measure, but he had no hesitation in saying that he thought the ballot a good thing, and he thought the most useful results would follow from it. He thought the arguments for it upon theory were stronger than those against it, and the experience of those who were even prejudiced against it was in its favour. There were, no doubt, some difficulties in the way of a practical measure. His hon. friend from East Toronto spoke of the dangers of frauds being com-

mitted. There were those dangers, but they had been battled with elsewhere, and he supposed they could battle with them in Canada. The present system by no means excluded the possibility of fraud being committed. It had been contended that in the United States through the medium of the ballot a much larger number of persons voted than were voters. They, however, had had the same experience in Canada. He recollected an instance when he was in Parliament before. In the county of Russell several hundred names had been put on the roll which had been copied from the Albany Directory, and an instance a good deal worse appears to have occurred in the late election for the House of Commons at Renfrew. Hundreds then voted whose names could not be found. Our system did not preclude the possibility of such fraud. He thought that on conferring with his hon. friends they would be able to prepare a satisfactory measure on the subject and lay it before the House. He agreed with the view that had been suggested on both sides of the House, that if the Bill became law some Government should take the responsibility of it (hear, hear), and that it was not a matter which should rest merely with a private member. He thought this was a principle which they must recognize all the more cordially and adopt the more carefully because we had here but one Chamber. He thought it right that the debate should not close without his expressing his individual opinion in favour of the general principle of the ballot, and his hope that they would find it practicable to prepare a satisfactory measure upon the subject. (Cheers.)

After some remarks from Mr. Boulton, the House divided upon the amendment for the six months' hoist, which was lost by 14 yeas to 50 nays. (Cheers.)

The motion for the second reading of the Bill was then put, and carried by Yeas 50, nays 14.

YEAS.—Messrs. Ardagh, Barber, Bethune, Caldwell, Christie, Clarke, (Norfolk) Clarke, Wellington; Clemens, Cook, Craig, Glangary; Craig, (Russell) Crosby, Deroche, Farewell, Finlayson, Fraser, Gibbons, Gibson, Gow, Graham, Grange, Guest, Haney, Lauder, McKeillar, McKim, McLeod, McManus, McRae, Mowat, Oliver, Pardee, Paxton, Prince, Read, Robinson, Scott, Ottawa; Sexton, Sinclair, Smith, Snetsinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Webb, Wells, Williams, (Durham) Williams, (Hamilton) Wilson, Wood, (Brant) Wood, (Victoria)—50.

NAYS.—Messrs. Boulton, Boulton, Cameron, Code, Deacon, Fitzsimmons, Hamilton, Macdonald, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Monteith, Rykert, Tooley—14.

Attorney-General MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. CAMERON asked if the mover of the Bill did not intend to move it into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. CLARKE said that after this expression of the House he was quite content to leave the matter to the Government. He did not intend to carry the Bill through, but as a matter of form he moved it be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said the Government had expressed their intention to take up this subject, but held that it was inexpedient to do so now, and yet they had voted against the six months' hoist.

Attorney-General MOWAT said it was well understood that a vote for six months' hoist was always a vote in opposition to the principle of the Bill.

MUNICIPAL LOAN FUND.

Mr. CAMERON asked if it was the intention of the Government to bring down the scheme with reference to the Municipal Loan Fund to morrow.

Attorney-General MOWAT—Not to morrow.

The House then adjourned at 1 o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Crosby—On Monday next—A Bill entitled "An Act to repeal the Act authorizing and regulating the use of traction engines on the highways of this Province."

Mr. Meredith—On Monday next—Enquiry of Ministers whether it is the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce a measure to provide for the consolidation of the general Statute Law of the Province of Ontario.