

that the majority is less than 100, by means of these papers it could be easily ascertained for whom various parties voted. The whole advantages of a scrutiny were secured, and it was not found to be any serious interference with the secrecy of the ballot. The measure on the English Statute Book contains all the important provisions for the purpose of securing secrecy on the part of officials. He (Mr. Mowat) thought it would be more agreeable to the House and the country to adopt the English ballot system than the American system. It was slightly varied, however, and he thought it would be more satisfactory to the country, and prove in accordance with the feelings and wishes of the country to adopt the system which obtained in England, on the principle of which it had been prepared. He did not think any object would be gained by him by making a further statement in regard to the provisions of the Bill. The details would be considered in Committee, and he hoped, in conclusion, that in selecting the English system he would have the support of both sides of the House. He was satisfied that when the measure passed it would be felt to be one which would secure that purity of election which they all desired.

Mr. CAMERON said he was opposed to the principle of secret voting, or voting by ballot, but it was not his intention to divide the House on this question. He believed it was generally the impression which prevailed among gentlemen of the party with which he was connected that the Bill would be in their favour. He did not think there was anything like the amount of intimidation and bribery practised by the party with which he acted that there was by the party of his hon. friend opposite. He desired to know if the ballot would prevent the Commissioner of Public Works from addressing letters to the Superintendent of the Central Prison, or any other extensive public work under the control of the Government, directing that the men should have a day's holiday, and be paid for the time they were away attending a nomination. He condemned the action of the Government in this respect, and stated that the principle had been a failure in the United States and Great Britain in preventing bribery and corruption. He did not suppose the Bill would prevent men from telling lies, and instances of men under the control of the Commissioner of Public Works, who, he asserted, if Conservatives, and questioned as to which way they were going to vote, would, knowing they would be dismissed if they announced their intention of voting for the Conservative candidate, have to tell a lie or own up and lose their employment. He did not consider that absolute secrecy would be obtained by the system proposed. The Returning officer might be able to remember the number of the voting paper, and ascertain who the man voted for. He was of opinion that violence at the polls would be more liable to take place under the ballot than hitherto, and did not think the change on the whole would result beneficially. So far as his friends on that side of the House were concerned, he believed they were prepared to accept the Bill, as they thought the Conservative party would be much strengthened and benefitted by it. If this were to be so, it would place those in power who would not abuse the power placed in their hands, and use men in high places for the purpose of unduly influencing and intimidating those under their control.

Mr. BETHUNE said that similar arguments to those used by the hon. member for East Toronto were used by the opponents to the Ballot Bill in England, and went on to assert that the ballot in the United States was not a secret system of voting. As an instance of the ability of persons to personate others with success, he referred to a case alluded to by the Marquis of Salisbury some time ago, in which a friend of his, occupying a seat in the House of Commons or House of Lords, to test the efficacy of the balloting system in the United States, actually voted three times on three occasions when in the United States without being detected. The system which obtained in the United States was not at all analogous to that introduced by the Government, and he pointed out that numerical suffrage made the detection of personation difficult. He showed the necessity of open voting in Deliberative Assemblies, and of secret voting at the electoral source. He thought the Bill might go further than making it a penal offence to disclose anything heard or seen by the agents of the candidate, the candidate, or the Returning-officer, by compelling them to take an oath that they would not disclose the information. He thought it ill became the leader of the Government, a follower of the chief of the cor-

ruptionists, to charge the Government with bribery and intimidation as he had. It was in the interest of every person that bribery should be stopped as far as possible, and he believed this Bill would in large measure reduce their previously iniquitous system of bribery.

Mr. BOULTBEE said he was formerly in favour of an open system of voting, but he was compelled to confess that his recent experience had made him in a great measure convert to some of the opinions expressed on the other side of the House. They had to admit, and it was a shameful thing it should be so, that very many of their constituencies were corrupt. THE GLOBE party had become desperate, and would resort to any means to gain their ends, and if this Bill was successful in reducing the terrorism that party exercised it would do a great deal. He believed the Bill would make a great deal of difference to a great many constituencies, and was satisfied that it would in the one he represented. They would be enabled to obtain a fair action on the part of the people. Although he had only looked through the Bill carelessly, from what he had seen of it he believed it was a good one.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE thought if the Bill only answered the ends it was said it would a great boon would be conferred upon the people. Sufficient protection was not afforded by the system of open voting, but he believed the Bill under consideration would meet all the requirements in this respect. The influence of capital would not after the passage of this measure be exercised as it had been hitherto, and employes would be enabled to go to the polls and vote according to the dictates of their consciences. He suggested that all means should be adopted for the securing of absolute secrecy, in order that intimidation would be fruitless in its results. He regarded the Bill as a step in the right direction, and announced that he was prepared to support it. He was sure that if any defects were found to exist in the Bill, the Government would be prepared to rectify them.

Mr. McCALL said from what had come to his knowledge during 1872, he had been led to look favourably upon the system of open voting, but he was now disposed to support the Bill before the House. He was sorry that the hon. member for East Toronto had still opposed it, because it would do great injury to the party. (Hear, hear.) He approved of a man sticking to his principles but he did not think that there was much principle about that. He gave his cordial support to the measure of the Government.

Mr. DEROCHE was sorry to say that all parties in all parts of the country were anxious to get money for their votes when money was going, and all intelligent men in the country were agreed as to the necessity of some measure for the prevention of corrupt practices. He thought this Government deserved great credit for being the first

Administration in this country to offer such a measure, and his only fear was that there would be great difficulty in carrying out its provisions, especially with regard to polling booths, which he was afraid would have to be specially erected, and he was not aware from what source the necessary funds were to be got. He was not much in favour of the principle of secret voting, but he was glad to accept it in view of the evils it would be likely to cure.

Mr. STEPHEN RICHARDS said he had at one time had some fears as to the working of such a Bill, seeing the manner in which things were conducted under the ballot in the United States; but its success in England had in a great measure removed his prejudices against it. He argued that it would not secure elections against bribery, and contended that the Government of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald deserved ten times more credit for the measure they passed for the purpose of preventing bribery at elections.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he was not willing to allow the hon. member to take all the credit of the improved election law, because it was well known that although that Government which passed it were in office, they were not in power, and were forced to take this action by the course pursued by Mr. Blake, who introduced a resolution upon the subject which carried with it the feeling of the House. The truth was that the new election law was a Reform measure, and was only passed by the late Government to secure themselves against defeat in the House. He reminded hon. members that it was said to have been remarked by the late Mr. Sandfield Macdonald—and, he thought, with perfect truth—that he passed all the Reform measures he thought proper, and gave the offices to the Tories. (Hear, hear.) For his own part, he did not feel very strongly upon this subject, but he would give it his support, with the