

country for them to deal with it just as they thought proper. He had only to repeat that he did it, believing that he was doing what was right. He might have done wrong, but he did not think so. He had precedents for it, and what was more, he had the interests of the hard working-man at heart. (Cheers.) And when he had the opportunity of going before the electors of the country, who make and provide the money for the exchequer, he would be able to confront those gentlemen who attacked him now, and receive the approbation of his fellow-countrymen. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Hon. Mr. FRASER said he did not intend to address the House at any length upon this occasion. He would in the first place call attention to the very large number of men employed at the Woolwich Dockyards as compared with the number employed by this Government at the Central Prison. Quoting from the *Broad Arrow*, he showed that on the 1st December, 1868, the number was reduced from 20,000 to 15,000; that under the Government of Mr. Gladstone the number was reduced to 14,000; and that this latter was the number when they were allowed the half day at Mr. Gladstone's election, as quoted by the Commissioner of Public Works. They had got further testimony, too, than that of the telegram just quoted, that the men were paid. He was also prepared to show that they had got it at the previous general election as well as at the last. Quoting again from the *Broad Arrow*, he showed that Sir James Elphinstone, in his nomination speech at Portsmouth, on the 31st of January, promised his constituents to use his very best endeavours in the right quarter to get the half holiday for them on polling day, and expressed his opinion that the keeping off of the two hour's pay acted as so much of a check upon the expression of the men's political feelings that it greatly increased the number who did not vote.

Mr. LAUDER said it was not shown that they were to be paid.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said the very fact that Sir James Elphin's tone mentioned the two hour's pay which was kept off the men who went to vote was proof that he proposed to pay them when they got the half day. He proposed now to quote from "Hansard" to show that it was not an unusual thing in England to give Government employes on Public Works even a whole holiday upon an election day, and continue their pay. In the first place he drew attention to the debate upon the Ballot in the House of Commons, when the question of opening the polling booths early in the morning, before working hours, and keeping them open after working hours at night, was under discussion. The purpose of the proposition was to give all working men an opportunity of voting, without having to lose their pay. Mr. Goldsmith upon that occasion specially pointed out that men working in Government dock-yards laboured under this difficulty, and also took occasion to say that a different practice prevailed among other large employers of labour, who allowed men to go and vote and kept their pay going all the same. That was only partially correct, so far as Government dock-yard employes were concerned, for he found that Mr. Cardwell, in reply to a question by Sir James Elphinstone, stated that it was quite true that a letter had been written to Mr. Baxter Langley to give the men at the Woolwich dockyard a half holiday on the occasion of the thanksgiving for the recovery of the Prince of Wales, and that the workmen at Portsmouth had not been given the same privilege. The reason assigned by Mr. Cardwell for this was that the Government were of opinion that the Woolwich artisans should be put upon the same footing as other metropolitan artisans, and he was sorry that the state of the work prevented them from extending the same privileges to the men at Portsmouth. He also quoted a case where Mr. Otway put a question to the Government whether the men at the dockyards had not been allowed a holiday at the same time that the convicts were allowed one, when Mr. Goschen replied that the Government were sorry they were not able to do so. He did not intend to go into any argument of the question in the meantime, but would simply content himself with quoting these precedents. (Cheers.)

Mr. BETHUNE said the hon. gentleman who made the motion did not seem to have any principles whatever. The hon. gentleman refused to commit himself to any declaration as to whether the principles were right or not.

Mr. CAMERON—The resolution affirms the principle.

Mr. BETHUNE said he was quite sure the hon. gentleman would not wish to commit himself to any such principle as the one contained in the resolution before the House. He did not think the House would concur with his hon. friend in the twofold charge against the hon. Commissioner of

Public Works. The charge was clear and well defined, and no one could mistake what his hon. friend's position in regard to these two points was. He apprehended there would be found no person who would say it was proper to interfere with the freedom of election. Perfect freedom of election had always been one of the planks of the Reform platform, and he trusted it would always be so. It was also a plank of the Reform platform that the public money should not be wasted in any way. But who were the people who were now taking this stand. They were the very people who had been practising principles subversive to the principles of the great Reform party for the last twenty years. They had been steeped to the lips in corruption, if he might use an old and favourite expression. He was glad, however, to see that they had repented, and the country would rejoice that the great Conservative party had cast their sins off. They would almost suppose that the gentlemen who moved the resolution had never in their lives as politicians been guilty of any act that was in the slightest degree questionable. The hon. gentleman then referred to the Grand Trunk frauds, and the Foote jobbery, and the Pacific Railway Scandal, which the Conservative party had countenanced. He would have to refer to a great many uncomfortable things which hon. gentlemen would not like to hear. He had taken considerable trouble to obtain a Blue Book, which contained the particulars of the Foote frauds, which shocked the whole population of the Province. He then proceeded to refer to the items charged for stationery, and compared them with corresponding items of stationery charged in one of the Legislative Assemblies.

Mr. LAUDER rose to a point of order.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said the hon. gentleman himself was out of order.

Mr. LAUDER was continuing to speak to the point of order, when

Hon. Mr. MOWAT called upon the Speaker not to allow the hon. gentleman to make a speech.

Mr. LAUDER said the hon. member for Stormont was not in order when he referred to matters which took place twenty years ago.

Mr. SPEAKER ruled the hon. member for Stormont was in order.

Mr. BETHUNE proceeded to refer to the items in connection with the Foote frauds, when

Mr. BOULTBEE rose to a point of order, claiming that the matter introduced by the hon. gentleman was irrelevant to the subject before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER said that the same license was allowed on the motion to go into Committee of Supply as upon the motion to adjourn the debate.

Mr. BETHUNE, in continuing, referred to the enormous and extravagant sums charged by Mr. Foote for certain kinds of stationery.

When six o'clock was called and the House rose for recess.

PRIVATE BILLS.

After recess the following Bills were advanced a stage:—

Hon. Mr. Pardee—To incorporate the Sarnia Street Railway Company.

Mr. Bethune—To authorize the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Company to issue preferential mortgage debentures, and for other purposes.

Mr. Williams (Hamilton)—To re-arrange the debt of the Hamilton and Lake Erie Railway Company, more clearly to define its leasing powers, and for other purposes.

Mr. Meredith—Respecting the City of Toronto Water Works, and to amend cap. 73 of 35 Victoria.

Hon. Mr. Crooks—To authorize the churchwardens of St. James' church, at Toronto, to issue debentures.

Mr. Deroche—Respecting the Midland Railway Company.

Mr. Deroche—Amending Acts relating to the Credit Valley Railway Company.

Mr. Prince—Respecting a concession line in Sandwich East, County of Essex.

Mr. Prince—Respecting a concession line in the township of Sandwich West, County of Essex.

Mr. Sinclair—To enable the corporation of Southampton, in the County of Bruce, to dispose of certain lands.

Mr. Meredith—To authorize the sale or exchange of a block of land in the village of Dresden, designated on the registered plan of the said village as Cemetery ground.

Mr. Meredith—To incorporate the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, of London.