

hear.)

Mr. SINCLAIR combatted the assertion of the hon. member for South Simcoe, that the Reform party were not entitled to the credit of initiating the secularisation of the Clergy Reserves, and he did not think it just to the leader of the Reform party that it should be said that to the leader of the Conservative party belonged the credit of accomplishing Confederation. The leader of the Conservative party was proud to adopt Confederation. The only remarks made by the hon. member for South Simcoe which were acceptable to him were those in reference to the prohibition question. There appeared to be as much drunkenness as there was twenty years ago, and the country had made little progress in regard to this matter. He did not doubt that the time would soon arrive when the House would unite in endeavouring to put a stop to the evils which resulted from the sale of intoxicants. In conclusion, he regretted that at the last election some unscrupulous men had attempted to stir up religious animosity.

Mr. ROBINSON also regretted that the member for South Simcoe had given the credit to the Conservative party of secularising the clergy reserves. He thought it strange that if the Opposition of the past Parliament had done as much for the country as was claimed only thirteen of them were returned to the present House.

The 9th paragraph then passed.

Paragraphs 10 to 13 passed without discussion.

On the 14th paragraph,

Mr. LAUDER attacked the speech of the Commissioner of Public Works, which he said was merely a criticism of the actions of the hon. member for South Simcoe since Confederation. The hon. gentleman never alluded to the principles or discussed the measures of the Government. His speech from beginning to end was but an attack on the members for South Grey and East Toronto. He denied that the Government were entitled to the credit of passing the Controverted Elections Act. They had made amendments to the law, and these amendments had resulted in so many harsh decisions that their repeal was called for. As to the purity of the Reform party, he could only say that out of 88 elections at the last election, 33 petitions were filed. out of these twelve supporters of the Government were disqualified, and only six supporters of the Opposition. Only three petitions against the supporters of the Government were abandoned, but ten against Conservative members. Fifty per cent. of the Government supporters were more corrupt than the supporters of the Opposition. He thought the House would have been told what the surplus actually was, but the Speech simply said it was a large sum. He thought that if the debts of the Province were paid there would not be much left. It was claimed that the Government had the confidence of the majority of the electors of the country. Now the fact was that the 37 members of the Opposition received 165,600 votes, while the 51 members supporting the Government received only 104,826 votes. He was surprised that no reference had been made to the extension of the Normal School system westward, or to the Central Prison. After referring to the alleged arbitrary conduct of the Government last session in reference to the Public Accounts Committee, the hon. gentleman, in conclusion, said the Opposition were determined to take up everything that had a practical bearing on the business of the country.

Mr. HARDY pointed out that although the Opposition contended that the bill of fare was meagre, they could not say the interests of the country had been neglected. The attack upon the Address had been a failure. He admired the audacity of the hon. member who had just sat down in attacking supporters of the Government for descending to personalities, when his own speech was devoted to attacking the Commissioner of Public Works. He did not think the Election Act was so stringent as had been said. He contended that it had worked admirably. The result of the Act which secured parity of election was that the Government returned to the House with a strong majority of from 15 to 20. The hon. member for South Grey had been very free in criticising the speech of the Commissioner of Public Works, but he reminded him that the member for South Simcoe had but a short time ago pub-

licly stated that the Opposition had during the past four years not been conducted as it should have been. After some further remarks, the honourable gentleman resumed his seat.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Broder, Cole, and Graham.

Mr. WILLS then moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. MOWAT said the debate was nearly exhausted.

Mr. CAMERON said that ten supporters of the Government had addressed the House, and only four members of the Opposition. Several gentlemen yet wished to express their views.

The motion was carried.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

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