

believed members on both sides would agree with him that the law had operated on the whole most beneficially. (Hear, hear) He believed there never had been an election in the country in which there was so small an aggregate amount of corruption as in the late election. (Hear, hear) The object of the clause to which reference had been made had been to prevent taverns being open on polling day, and the drinking which was consequent on their being open. The enactment was a beneficial one, but the judges had found it necessary to put a construction upon it by which if a candidate went into a tavern on the polling day, and took a glass of beer or wine, not only was the election avoided but the candidate was disqualified. He was sure that every member would agree with him that not one person who was a party to that clause ever imagined that that would be the result of it. He entirely sympathized with those who thought a hardship had been suffered by those who were disqualified, and he rejoiced to find that both sides of the House approved of an enactment to remove that disqualification. It was a grave thing to do and it was desirable that there should not be many instances of it; but in a clear case of this kind, in which all parties concurred, he ventured to take the responsibility of saying that he would have something to offer to the House on the subject when it met again. (Cheers) He thought they should not stop in such a matter at those cases which had been disposed of by the Courts, but should include cases, such as that of South Ontario, which were still under adjudication.

The Bill was then read the first time.

#### THE RECESS.

Mr. MOWAT moved that when the House adjourns to-morrow it shall stand adjourned until Tuesday the 11th of January. He stated that it had been considered more convenient to postpone the re-assembling of the House to this date than to meet on the day first named—the first Thursday in January.

Mr. ROSS said the County Councils would be meeting on the fourth Tuesday in January.

Mr. DEACON was in favour of postponing the meeting to Wednesday the 12th.

Mr. HODGINS thought it would be more desirable to meet on the day originally fixed.

The motion was carried.

#### JUDGMENTS IN ELECTION TRIALS.

Mr. HODGINS moved, "That the Clerk of the House be directed to lay before the House copies of the judgments delivered by the judges selected for the trial of election petitions, in pursuance of the Controverted Elections Act of 1871, in the cases decided by them, and the judgments in appeal." He said his object was to have these judgments in the hands of hon. members in a shape convenient for future reference, as they did not appear in the regular reports. He believed this was the custom in England. Carried.

#### MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS ACT.

Mr. GIBSON moved, "For a return in accordance with the provisions of sub-sections 6, 31, 32, and 33, sec. 190 of the Municipal Institutions Act, 36 Vic. for the year 1874, showing the value and the indebtedness of each city, county, town, township, and village, at the above date throughout the Province." Carried.

#### SURPLUS DISTRIBUTION MONEY.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill respecting the application of the surplus distribution money, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair.

The Bill was reported with amendments, read the third time, and passed.

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill respecting proceedings at municipal elections, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair.

The Bill was reported with important verbal amendments, read the third time, and passed.

Mr. MEREDITH asked what arrangements had been made for distributing this statute to the various municipalities.

Mr. MOWAT said that ten copies would be sent forthwith to all clerks of municipalities throughout the Province.

Mr. MOWAT moved that the House adjourn until two o'clock to-morrow.

The House adjourned at 5.30 p. m.