

tizen majority in the House. He thought the people should have the power of re-electing an expelled member if they chose.

Mr. CAMERON said he believed this House should have all the privileges necessary to the carrying out of its duties, but he did not think it should have all the powers given by this tenth clause. Hon. gentlemen opposite were inconsistent in their course. They had voted that it was proper that partners of members of this House should be allowed to practice before the House or its Committees, and now they were asking members to vote for the very principle which they then condemned. It was dangerous to have such a provision as this made law, because the House had already the power to protect itself from the misconduct of members by expelling them. The conduct of the Government in the Proton matter was such that members of the Opposition might well fear the use they might make of such a provision as this. It was no credit to the Attorney-General that he had introduced a clause confirming the member for South Simcoe in his seat, because it would have been a farce to say he was not justly and properly seated. This House ought not to assume too many privileges, or any which were not essential to the due carrying on of its duties. It ought not, for instance, to have the power to bring a man to the Bar for a libel.

Mr. FRASER said the hon. gentleman seemed to think it very dreadful that this House should have these privileges. The member for East Toronto was a member of a Government which sought to pass an Act giving this House all the powers of the House of Commons of England or of Canada. The member for South Simcoe talked a great deal about the liberties of the people and his being the father of Confederation. He thought eighty-eight members from the Province of Ontario could look after the liberties of the people as well in this House as the same number from the Province in Ottawa. It had been the course of the hon. gentleman for the past year to belittle this House, and he thought members of this Assembly should not adopt that plan, but should protect their own dignity and privileges. The hon. gentleman had at Cooksville lauded Sir John Macdonald, who had given these very privileges to the Quebec House. He called the present Government and their supporters Red Republicans, but he did not call Sir John Macdonald by that name for his action. Hon. gentlemen were afraid of the action of a partizan majority, but what was the fact? The member for South Simcoe had no legal right to sit in this House, and yet this partizan majority had allowed this great gun of the Opposition who was to blow them all to pieces when he came here, to retain his seat, though by putting the law into force they could let him walk out. The member for South Ontario would probably be in a similar position, and yet this partizan majority proposed to legislate so that he might keep his seat. There had been also legislation in the last Parliament which would have kept the member for East Grey out of the House, but a provision was put in to leave him in his seat. A partizan minority was as dangerous as a partizan majority, and to show that no partizan majority would use its power unjustly, he mentioned that he could find only one instance in which an election committee had found a member guilty of bribery, and even then he was not disqualified. No one apprehended that a majority on one side or the other would suborn testimony or act so as to unjustly drive a member out of the House. Public opinion governed the House to such an extent that there was no danger of a misuse of their powers.

Mr. MEREDITH said if public opinion governed the Government, why not leave the power in the hands of the Government?

Mr. FRASER said he believed no Government would dare to act wrongly in such a matter. He thought the privileges now asked for were necessary for the dignity of the House.

Mr. SINCLAIR said that during this session an element had been introduced which he did not recollect in the previous Parliaments, namely, a desire to depreciate this House. There was an hon. member whose special mission seemed to be to teach members of this Legislature their place. He said that the local bodies were merely County Councils, that the Government were not Ministers of the Crown, but Executive Councillors, and that to take the privileges of other legislative bodies was to be Red Republicans. This House ought to frown down any member who tried to lower the dignity of the House. He had been here from the commencement of this Chamber, and he said advisedly that the Province should be proud of it. He saw

no reason why the people should begrudge it the privileges possessed by other legislative bodies, and was certain that they would see that it was maintained in its proper position.

Mr. BETHUNE cited the case of John Mitchell's election in Ireland, and Forsyth, to show that the House could by legislation establish powers which were not inherent. This House could establish Courts of Record, both civil and criminal, and surely it could clothe itself with the privileges which were found necessary in England. Section 84 of the British North America Act expressly gave power to the Local Legislatures to decide the qualifications of members "to sit or vote," and therefore it was clear that the House had power to pass this 10th section. As to the policy of this legislation, he would not say that there might not be danger in it, but the danger was reduced to a minimum, and public opinion exercised such an influence as to prevent the arbitrary exercise of power. If the House could not be trusted with this power they were not fit to make laws. It was sometimes dangerous to entrust powers to the Courts and to other bodies, but still powers were given to them. This House should have full control over its members. If this matter were left to the Law Courts it would be a dead letter. Who would petition against the member? It was considered an invidious thing to bring actions of that kind. Public opinion would prevent the House from doing an arbitrary thing.

Mr. BRODER said that the House had not a very high opinion of purity when it sought by a Bill to admit to the House members whom the Courts had declared unfit to have a seat in the Legislature. He thought the people should have the power of pronouncing its opinion upon an expelled member.

The amendment was then put to the Committee and lost.

The 8th clause was amended by inserting the word "wilfully" before "violating."

Mr. HODGINS claimed that there was in reality no provision in the Bill against a member accepting a bribe for his vote. The clause was simply directed against professional services in promotion of Bills, not for supporting or opposing Bills by vote.

Mr. CAMERON thought that the Bill was too restrictive, for a member could not even accept a present of a piece of plate in acknowledgment of services in aiding measures.

Mr. MOWAT thought that members might even forego the acceptance of a piece of plate for parliamentary services, or as tokens of good-will. He claimed that the Bill was sufficiently specific as to the acceptance of money for parliamentary services to include cases in which votes in the House were bought. "Promoting" did not simply mean professional promotion, but it was taken in the ordinary sense of the word.

Mr. HODGINS thought that some clauses of the Bill would conflict with the Dominion Insolvent Law.

Mr. MOWAT said the only effect of passing any clauses upon matters over which they had no jurisdiction would be that so far the Act would be without avail. He had no objection, however, to insert the words "so far as this Legislature has jurisdiction."

This amendment was made, as were other verbal amendments.

The Committee then rose and reported.

INSURANCE.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill respecting Insurance, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair.

The Bill was reported with amendments.

COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

Mr. MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill respecting County Court Judges.

In reply to Mr. Meredith,

Mr. MOWAT said that it was intended that the provisions of the Bill should apply to junior judges.

The motion was carried.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 11 o'clock.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. Mowat—On Wednesday—Bill respecting the partition and sale of real estate. *etc.*

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Public Accounts Committee met this morning. There were present Messrs. Gow (Chairman), Crooke, Wood, Gibson, Hay, Reas, Ferris, Merrick, Clarke (Wellington), and Striker.

Mr. FERRIS moved that inasmuch as several members of the Committee have met on