

municipality, or of the collector, for the taxes of 1875 on the nomination day or 15th March.

The Bill was amended accordingly.

Mr. HODGINS moved the addition of clauses providing for a recount of the ballot papers before a County Court Judge on the affidavit of a credible witness being submitted at any time before the Returning-officer had made his return, in cases when the majority did not exceed fifty votes.

The clauses were embodied in the Bill.

Mr. BETHUNE called attention to the fact that some election cases were pending, and provision should be made for applying the measure to them.

On motion of Mr. MOWAT, a clause was added, providing that in pending election cases the Judges shall not disqualify candidates for acts which were offences under the old law, but not under the new law.

The Bill was reported.

On the third reading of the Bill,

Mr. CAMERON moved the reference of the Bill back to Committee, with instructions to strike out the 35th clause, providing that corrupt practices by agents without the knowledge of the candidate shall not necessarily void the election.

The amendment was lost—Yeas, 33; Nays, 49.

YEAS.—Messrs. Baker, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Cameron, Code, Coutts, Creighton, Deacon, Fleisher, Graham (Frontenac), Grange, Harkin, Kean, Lauder, Long, McDougall (Middlesex), Macdougall (Simcoe), McGowan, McRae, Merrick, Monk, Mostyn, O'Sullivan, Patterson (Essex), Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, Wigle, Wills.—33.

NAYS.—Messrs. Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bishop, Bonfield, Brown, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Dawson, Derouche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fleming, Gibson, Gow, Graham (Lambton), Grant, Haney, Hardy, Hargratt, Hay, Hodgins, Hunter, Lane, Lyon, McCraney, McMahon, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Patterson (York), Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Snettinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdfield, Williams, Wilson, Wood.—49.

Mr. CAMERON moved that the Bill be referred back to the Committee with instructions to add to clause 30 the words:—"Provided nothing in this Act shall apply to any case in which the petition was filed before the passing of this Act."

The amendment was lost—Yeas, 34; Nays, 46.

YEAS.—Messrs. Baker, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Brown, Cameron, Code, Coutts, Creighton, Deacon, Fleisher, Graham (Frontenac), Grange, Harkin, Kean, Lauder, Long, McDougall (Middlesex), Macdougall (Simcoe), McGowan, McRae, Merrick, Monk, Mostyn, O'Sullivan, Patterson (Essex), Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, Wigle, Wills.—34.

NAYS.—Messrs. Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Dawson, Derouche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fleming, Gibson, Gow, Graham (Lambton), Grant, Haney, Hardy, Hargratt, Hay, Hodgins, Hunter, Lane, Lyon, McCraney, McMahon, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Patterson (York), Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Snettinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdfield, Williams, Wilson, Wood.—46.

Mr. CAMERON referred to the North Grey, North Wentworth, and Halton cases, in which the candidates were disqualified, remarking that in those cases there was perhaps ground for having the disqualification of those gentlemen removed. In the Lincoln case, however, Mr. Neelon should not be exempted from the penalty of the law, because the election was characterized by bribery and corruption. If the court which tried the case was disposed to relieve him from that disability, it should do so; but the Legislature was not a body to review the decisions of a court. He moved that the Bill be referred to the Committee, with instruction to amend the 38th clause by inserting after the word "may," "candidate or other," and striking out the words "other than a candidate," or otherwise amend the same so as to require a candidate to seek release from a judge or court of a judgment of disqualification, in the same manner as any other person may under the same clause.

After some remarks from Mr. McMahon,

Mr. MOWAT contended that in passing the Act the Legislature would no more interfere with the judiciary than did the Crown when it remitted a portion of the punishment in any case.

The amendment was defeated on a division: Yeas, 35, nays 46.

YEAS.—Baker, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Brown, Cameron, Code, Coutts, Creighton, Deacon, Fleisher, Graham (Frontenac), Grange, Hargratt, Harkin, Kean, Lauder, Long, McDougall (Middlesex), Macdougall (Simcoe), McGowan, McRae, Merrick, Monk, Mostyn, O'Sullivan, Patterson (Essex), Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, Wigle, Wills.—35.

NAYS.—Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Dawson, Derouche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fleming, Gibson, Gow, Graham (Lambton), Grant, Haney, Hay, Hodgins, Hunter, Lane, Lyon,

McCraney, McMahon, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Patterson (York), Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Snettinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdfield, Williams, Wilson, Wood.—46.

Mr. CAMERON charged the Attorney-General with having inserted in the Bill the clause voted on because it had been determined that Mr. Neelon, the disqualified candidate, was the only strong candidate against Mr. Rykert in Lincoln. He moved the reference of the Bill back to the Committee with instructions to strike out section 45.

Mr. MOWAT said that no opposition was offered to the proposal to relieve disqualified candidates in the four election cases when it was first mentioned, because hon. members opposite then expected to obtain three supporters therefrom; but the position had been changed by an unexpected judgment in the South Ontario case. He reviewed the facts in the different cases, and contended that even in the Lincoln case clemency should be exercised.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) opposed the Government proposal because it was demoralizing to the public mind by destroying confidence in the decisions of the judiciary, and was an insult to the judges. The chief motive of the interference with the decision of the judges was to give the Government an eligible candidate in the Lincoln election.

Mr. CURRIE argued that extensive corruption could not have prevailed in the Lincoln election when Mr. Neelon's election expenses were \$200 less than those of Mr. Cameron in East Toronto. The Conservatives should not speak about corruption in that part of the country, when \$2,500 were spent by Mr. Plumb in a community with only four hundred votes. The elaborate judgment of Mr. Justice Gwynne had been reversed by the Court of Appeal in all particulars except as to the Stuart case. He reminded the House that the four gentlemen in question were not convicted of any criminal offence, otherwise they could go to the Crown for pardon. They were saddled by the law with civil disabilities, and the only tribunal that could relieve them was the Legislature. Mr. Neelon was determined to contest the constituency with credit to himself and in conformity with the law. Indiscreet friends, however, committed indiscreet acts, and for them Mr. Neelon had been called upon to severely suffer. He defied the Opposition to show that Mr. Neelon had committed a single corrupt act. The Court of Appeal could not enter into the consideration of questions of fact, and could not, therefore, override the decision of the judge who tried the case. Although several elections had taken place in Lincoln, and three election trials had taken place, not one dollar could be shown to have been expended by any of the candidates who had contested the county in the Reform interest.

Mr. SCOTT maintained that the Lincoln election was equally corrupt with the London election. The effect of the Government Act would be to lead the Province to believe that there was no longer a stringent election law.

Mr. MEREDITH entered his protest against the proposed legislation. He thought if the House thus passed judgment on Judge Gwynne's decision and reversed it, that judge might resign his seat.

The amendment was lost:—Yeas 35, Nays 46.

YEAS.—Messrs. Baker, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Cameron, Code, Coutts, Creighton, Deacon, Fleisher, Graham (Frontenac), Graham (Lambton), Grange, Harkin, Hodgins, Kean, Lauder, Long, McDougall (Middlesex), Macdougall (Simcoe), McGowan, McRae, Merrick, Monk, Mostyn, O'Sullivan, Patterson (Essex), Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Ross, Scott, Tooley, Wigle, Williams, Wills.—35.

NAYS.—Messrs. Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Dawson, Derouche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fleming, Gibson, Gow, Graham (Lambton), Grant, Haney, Hardy, Hargratt, Hay, Hunter, Lane, Lyon, McCraney, McMahon, Miller, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Paxton, Robinson, Sexton, Sinclair, Snettinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdfield, Wilson, Wood.—46.

#### A SCENE.

At the conclusion of the division,

Mr. CAMERON rose and said—This legislation is of such a character that neither myself nor my friends will be a party to it. Hon. gentlemen opposite will have, therefore, to vote on it and carry it in the absence of the Opposition.

The members of the Opposition then rose in a body and left the chamber amid the laughter and ironical cheers of the Government supporters.

Mr. GRANGE rose on the Opposition side of the House and said that as an independent member he