

been raised, if the copy of the Order in Council printed in THE GLOBE were correct. He considered this very unfair to the rural constituencies.

Mr. DEROCHE said that great complaint was made in regard to the increased severity of the examinations. Sufficient notice of the additional subjects of examination had not been given, and the students had only to the last of June to prepare. The Minister of Education had promised to consider the matter.

Mr. CROOKS said that the suggestions of hon. members would receive the most careful consideration.

The amendments were concurred in.

On the motion for the third reading,

Mr. CODE moved, "That the Bill be recommitted, with instructions to amend so as to leave the law unchanged in regard to the County Council and High Schools."

Mr. WIGLE considered it unjust that townships and villages should have to pay more towards the High Schools than they did at present.

The motion was lost on the following division:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Barr, Baxter, Bell, Bothune, Bishop, Broder, Code, Goutte, Graham, Grant, Kean, McDougall (Middlesex), McGowan, McKee, Preston, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, Wigle, Wilson.—50.

NAYS.—Messrs. Appleby, Baker, Ballantyne, Bonfield, Boulter, Cameron, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Washington), Cole, Creighton, Crooks, Currie, Dawson, Deacon, Deroche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fleisher, Fraser, Gibson, Grant, Hardy, Hargrave, Harkin, Hay, Hunter, Lane, Lander, Long, Lyon, McCraney, Macdougall (Simcoe), McMahon, Massey, Meredith, Merrick, Mowat, O'Sullivan, Pardee, Richardson, Scott, Sinclair, Wills, Wood.—53.

The Bill was then read the third time and passed.

#### THE ASSESSMENT.

The Bill to amend the Assessment Act of 1869 was read a third time and passed.

#### THE VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD moved the third reading of the Bill to amend cap. 2, 38 Vic., respecting the readjustment of the representation in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. CAMERON said that the change made by the general Act in regard to the standing of the village of Stouffville should not be departed from unless the Government were prepared to grant petitions from municipalities situated in similar circumstances. It made little difference to which riding of York the village was attached for Parliamentary purposes.

Mr. MOWAT said that the rule laid down in the general Act was that when a village was situated between two ridings it should be attached to one or other, and not divided, and that it should be attached to the smaller riding in order to equalize the representation. The Government were asked to make this village an exception to the operation of this Act, but if they did so he failed to see how they would resist other applications of the kind.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) was inclined to support the Bill because it made the constituencies of York the same as for the Dominion House of Parliament.

Mr. BETHUNE thought no harm would result from acceding to the wishes of the people in the locality.

Mr. SCOTT did not think the desire of the people of the locality was a sufficient reason for making an exception to the general law. He thought, too, that the provision in the Bill with regard to the income franchise votes was not sufficiently clear.

Mr. FRASER said that during the debates in the old Parliament of Canada it had been announced over and over again that the Local Legislatures would have complete control over their own representation. He would support the Bill as the Legislature had on several occasions taken the course now proposed. The general law did not provide, and was not intended to provide for a case of the kind, and besides no one could charge that there was any political reason for making the change.

Mr. HARDY said that the assessment roll would be a clear and sufficient guide as to where income voters are entitled to cast their votes. He believed it would be found that the parties who had sought for incorporation had not been aware that by incorporating they would deprive themselves of the usual place of voting. Considering that the Bill would not involve any advantage to either party, he thought it should be adopted.

Mr. CLARKE (Norfolk) said he intended

voting for the Bill because apparently all parties were unanimous in desiring the change now sought. He could not help thinking (when the member for East Toronto had been speaking) of the attempts made by that gentleman's political friends by means of the Redistribution Bill of 1872, to "Jerry-mander" the county of Norfolk and other constituencies in the interest of the Conservative party.

The House then divided on the motion, which was carried: Yeas, 51; Nays, 19.

YEAS.—Messrs. Appleby, Baker, Ballantyne, Barr, Baxter, Bethune, Bishop, Bonfield, Chisholm, Clarke (Norfolk), Code, Cole, Goutte, Crooks, Dawson, Deroche, Fleisher, Fraser, Graham, Grange, Grant, Hardy, Harkin, Hay, Hunter, Kean, Lane, Long, Lyon, Macdougall (Middlesex), Macdougall (Simcoe), McMahon, McKee, Massey, Miller, Monk, Mostyn, O'Donoghue, Patterson (Essex), Patterson (York), Paxton, Preston, Robinson, Sexton, Springer, Striker, Tooley, Widdifield, Wigle, Williams, Wilson.—51.

NAYS.—Messrs. Bell, Boulter, Broder, Cameron, Creighton, Currie, Deacon, Hargrave, McGowan, Meredith, Merrick, Mowat, O'Sullivan, Pardee, Richardson, Scott, Sinclair, Wills, Wood.—19.

#### THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OPPOSITION.

Mr. CAMERON then rose and said—Mr. Speaker, it is perfectly manifest after the vote that has just been taken that neither my hon. friend the Attorney-General nor myself has control of this House. For my own part, I resign my position. I will no longer act as leader of the Opposition.

Mr. MEREDITH said it certainly did seem strange that the Government should divide on a measure of this kind, and that, after the very clear declaration of the Premier, the Commissioner of Public Works should get up and unsay all that the Attorney-General had said. It was a most anomalous state of things, and not very creditable to the Legislature as a body. The Government should have been a unit on a question of this kind.

Mr. FRASER said the hon. member for London would do well to put his own house in order instead of lecturing the Government. He (Mr. Fraser) had yet to learn that on a question of this kind the Government must be a unit. On the contrary, he thought from the very nature of the Bill that it should clearly be regarded as an open question. The hon. gentleman might more appropriately lecture his own side of the House, seeing that he had just lost his leader. He had lost his head, and apparently with his head had lost his wits (hear, hear, and laughter) to judge by the lecture which he had just delivered.

Mr. CAMERON said—This is certainly not a matter which should have been left to an open vote, for the Bill proposes to change the representation of the country. I opposed the Bill on principle and I may add that I am perfectly in earnest when I say that I resign my position as leader of the Opposition. I mean it.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at six o'clock.

#### SECOND SITTING.

The Speaker took the chair at 7:30 p. m.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Mr. MERRICK said that so far as he could learn there was an unequal distribution of these departmental reports which were in excess of the number regularly distributed to the House. He hoped that in future those which remained after the regular distribution would be divided equally among the members. (Hear, hear.)

#### RETURN.

Mr. WOOD presented a return on the working of the Tavern and Shop License Acts for the year 1876.

#### PROVISIONAL COUNTY BILL.

The House again went into Committee on the Bill respecting the territorial districts of Mukoka, Parry Sound, and Thunder Bay, and the provisional county of Haliburton.

Several amendments were made on the motion of Mr. Mowat.

The Bill as amended was reported, and the amendments were concurred in.

#### NIPISSING TOWNSHIPS.

Mr. MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill to apply the Municipal Law to certain townships in the district of Nipissing.

After some discussion, the motion was carried and the Bill read a second time.

#### THE ELECTION LAW.

Mr. MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act relating to the election of members of the Assembly, remarking that it affected matters of detail which