

spent no money without the consent of Parliament? He thought they had fallen from grace, while he was advocating the same principles he advocated twenty years ago. (Laughter and cheers.) So that they had not vindicated the principles they professed.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

PRIVATE BILLS.

The House went into Committee, and reported the following Private Bills without amendment:—

To incorporate the St. Thomas-street Railway Company.—Mr. Wilson.

To confirm a Survey in the Township of Caledon.—Mr. Flesher.

The Bills were then read the third time and passed.

The following Bills were read the second time:—

Respecting the City of St. Catharines.—Mr. Hodgins.

To confirm sales made by the Order of Good Templars.—Mr. Meredith.

The London Water Works Amendment Act of 1878.—Mr. Meredith.

To incorporate the Western University of London, Ontario.—Mr. Meredith.

To consolidate the debt of Brockville.—Mr. Deacon.

To enable the County of Bruce to assume the railway debts of certain municipalities.—Mr. Sinclair.

To authorize the Town of Dundas to exempt Messieurs Fisher from taxation.—Mr. McMahon.

Mr. CAMERON said this Bill affirmed the principle of tax exemptions, which he did not know whether the Government was willing to agree to.

Mr. FRASER did not think so. The object was merely to permit the municipality to exempt this particular enterprise, in favour of which the people of the locality themselves had voted. It did not involve the general question at all.

The Bill was read the second time, as were also the following:—

Respecting the Townships of Tilbury East, Raleigh, and Romney.—Mr. Coutts.

Respecting the debt of the County of Frontenac, and to make valid certain debentures of said county.—Mr. Calvin.

To enable the Corporation of Leeds and Grenville to sell certain lands.—Hon. Mr. Cameron.

To authorize Henry Scarrow to add the name of Woodward to his present name.—Mr. Hodgins.

Respecting the City of Toronto and Toronto Water-works.—Mr. Bell.

To legalize By-law No. 221 of the county of Oxford.—Hon. Attorney-General Mowat.

Mr. CAMERON observed, with reference to the last Bill, that the legislation of the House was not clear else the Bill would not be necessary.

DEPARTMENTAL PRINTING.

Mr. MACDOUGALL continued his remarks on this subject. He contended that the difficulty between the Government and the contractors should be settled in one way or another. If Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co. were entitled to the increased amount the Government should bring down a proposition to grant it to them; and if not, then the improper arrangement should be understood to cease. It was not safe or honest or economical to conduct public business in the way the Government were conducting this matter. He expressed the opinion that the public printing of the Province could be done more cheaply, and more satisfactorily if it were in a Government printing office, under the management of officers of the House, instead of by the contract system. He had formed this opinion in consequence of enquiries made several years ago at Washington, as a Commissioner on the subject of governmental printing, and he offered the sugges-

tion to the Government. He concluded by saying that the terms between the Government and the printers ought to be plainly understood.

Mr. FRASER said it would perhaps be only fair to state the facts as alleged by Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co. in support of their claim for an increased price. What they said was, that they had not after the strike engaged apprentices or women at less wages than regular printers. They had only three women compositors, to whom they had paid the same wages as to men.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE—I can not let that statement pass. (Laughter.)

Mr. FRASER—I am only making the statement as the statement of Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE said he was prepared to prove that they did employ women at a lower rate of wages than they had given to men. The Government had paid Hunter, Rose, & Co. \$50,000 in order to get them to expedite the printing of the Ontario Statutes. He thought they might have done the work on the rates they were getting without being granted this additional amount. That addition was authorized by an Order in Council of last year.

Mr. FRASER—Not at all. An order of the House was passed for the advancement of the small sum of \$7,000. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. O'DONOGHUE went on to say that Hunter, Rose, & Co. enjoyed what printers called a "fat take" by their possession of this contract, and he saw no reason why they should be pampered by the House. The work of the Government ought to be submitted to public competition, and if that were done, he pledged his reputation as a practical printer, that it would be done at one-third less than it was done at present. (Opposition cheers.) Hon. gentlemen opposite need not imagine that he was going to desert the ranks because of the position he took on this particular matter. (Cheers and laughter and Opposition cries of "You can have a seat over here.") He felt the right to sustain that party which was doing what was best in the general interests of the country—(cheers)—although it was his duty to feel and speak as he had done with reference to the contract in question.

Mr. CAMERON said he was not able to be present when this matter first came up. He regarded as a little strange the position of the hon. member for Ottawa on the subject. He thought that at the time Hunter, Rose, & Co. asked for additional rates, or offered to give up the contract instead, the Government should have submitted it to public tender. He quoted the evidence of Mr. Notman before the Public Accounts Committee last year, and said the position was in the same unsettled condition now as it was then.

Mr. CREIGHTON disclaimed any intention of attacking the Government by means of this motion. His object was merely to have a wrong righted, and he thought he would succeed. When the hon. member for Ottawa and himself first brought the matter up in the Printing Committee, it was without the object of making a complaint against the Government, but he thought hon. members opposite had had Mr. Notman brought before the Public Accounts Committee in order to forestall their efforts. He contended that the authority which had been given to the House in a recommendation from the Printing Committee referred to some special work, and not to the general work, and that hon. gentlemen opposite were screening themselves by special pleading. He quoted from a previous contract with Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co. to show that the contract was subject to the ratification of the House.

Mr. FRASER said that what he said was that Mr. Macdonald's Government had not as a matter of fact submitted the contract for ratification.

Mr. CREIGHTON continued to say that he was surprised at the statements of a gentleman who professed to understand the printing business, a gentleman "who had been a devil" in his time (laughter), should attempt to mislead the House in regard to the matter of printing