

came up, to make a speech on both sides of it, he having been a member of both political parties, but not very long at one time on either side. The hon. gentleman would find that if he fired guns the Government would give him back gun for gun and shot for shot. In relation to the matter before the House, it would have mattered very little if the resolution under consideration had been left out altogether.

Mr. CAMERON. [Then strike it out.

Mr. FRASER continued to say that it would have mattered very little because the Bill was one relating to public service, and if an hon. member had had a personal clerk, and if the matter had not been mentioned here, he would have been put down as he always had been put down in the estimates, as a clerk of one class or another; the particular service performed would be performed in just the same way. The object of all Bills should be to provide for emergencies, and this measure only provided that in case such a measure should become necessary at any future time such officers could be employed. He would ask the House if it would be right that in case such an officer were appointed, and who would in all probability be friendly to the Government, he should be forced upon the next Government who took office. The paragraph, therefore, provided merely that he should go out if necessary, but the Minister succeeding to the vacancy could easily retain the services of the clerk if he so desired. He denied any intention on the part of the Government to make any additions to the staff at present. He said that in case hon. gentlemen on his side of the House should make such appointments, as hon. gentlemen on the opposite side maintained was the intention, the Government was still responsible to the House. The public service required that certain work should be done, and he had no doubt that if they were to ask the House for additional assistance it would be granted if necessary. The Hon. Attorney-General had a large amount of correspondence, which required that he should have a private secretary, though the work which was generally designated private correspondence was merely the exchange of confidential letters, which really were the work of the hon. gentleman as the Premier of Ontario. He ventured to say that the Hon. Attorney-General would require to devote the whole of his time to the work of correspondence in order to get it off his hands. If it was desired by the House that these officers should be permanent officers of the Department, he should offer no personal objection.

Mr. CAMERON expressed surprise at the hon. member for Welland introducing such a matter as was his attack on the hon. member for South Simcoe. He admired the principle of the hon. member for Welland in resigning because such a great change as Confederation was not submitted to the people. The speaker defended the hon. member for South Simcoe at considerable length, after which he said that the expenses of the Attorney-General's office in 1869 were \$7,165, and in this year \$14,980, which was a specimen of the economy of the Government. Hon. gentlemen on this side of the House did not wish for this provision of the law; they had no desire to shield themselves behind an Act of Parliament.

Mr. MOWAT said that the expenses of his office had increased, but the volume of work bore a much greater proportion to the expense now than then; every official in his Department was overworked.

The amendment being put, was lost by a vote of 28 to 43.

Mr. MEREDITH then moved the following amendment:—"That this resolution shall not authorize the appointment of private secretaries to any of the Departments unless the Order in Council authorizing such appointment be first authorized by the Assembly."

The vote being called for, the amendment was lost by a vote of 29 to 39.

The original motion being put, was carried on a vote of 41 to 28.

The Committee then rose and reported.

Mr. HARDY moved, "That the resolutions be referred to the Committee of the Whole on this Bill."

Mr. CAMERON moved in amendment, "That the resolution be referred back to the Committee, with instructions to eliminate the clause affecting private secretaries."

Mr. FRASER then took objection on a point of order to the motion of the honourable the Provincial Secretary.

RETURNS.

Mr. HARDY presented copies of all returns respecting the number of pupils in the Agricultural College and their residences; also copies of all the correspondence with the honourable the Minister of Education respecting the discontinuance of the *Journal of Education*.

EXPECTED MEASURES.

In reply to Mr. Cameron,

Mr. MOWAT said the measures relating to landlords and tenants and voters' lists were being rapidly prepared, and would be brought down very shortly.

Mr. MEREDITH hoped these measures would not be sprung on the House at the close of the session, when there was no time to consider them.

In reply to Mr. Flesher,

Mr. MOWAT said he could not name the day when a measure would be introduced providing for the disposition of the Mercer estate.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 10:15.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Lane—On Monday next—Bill to amend the Agriculture and Arts Act.

Mr. Sexton—On Monday next—Bill to amend the Joint Stock Road Company's Act. Also—Bill to amend sections 442 and 445 of the Municipal Institutions Act. Also—Bill to amend the Act respecting Jurors. Also—Bill to amend the Act relating to the expenses of Criminal Justice.

EXEMPTIONS COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Exemptions met at 11 o'clock this morning.

Present — Messrs. Ferris (Chairman), Hardy, Miller, Sexton, Calvin, Graham, Hargraft, Bell, O'Donoghue, Harkin, Robinson, Meredith, McMahon, Chisholm, Wills, and Patterson (Essex).

After routine business,

The Chairman read copies of the petitions sent to the House from the city of Belleville and the Corporation of the City of Toronto.

Mr. HARDY moved, seconded by Mr. MILLER, "That the Clerk be instructed to compile a list of the Statutory Exemptions, and that 500 copies be printed for the use of the Committee." Carried.

Mr. MEREDITH said that it seemed to him that certain members of the Committee were determined to burke the enquiry, so that no report should be made during the present session.

Mr. HARDY denied any such intention.

Mr. MEREDITH, in referring to the free use by gas companies and water companies of the public streets, expressed his opinion that these companies should not be exempted from taxation. He moved, seconded by Mr. BEEL, "That sub-section 6 of section 6 of the Assessment Act stand for further consideration." Carried.

Moved by Mr. GRAHAM, seconded by Mr. MILLER, "That sub-section 7 of section 6, relating to property belonging to counties or municipalities, stand for further consideration." Carried.

Mr. HARDY moved, seconded by Mr. GRAHAM, "That sub-section 8 of section 6, relating to the exemption of the Central Prison, Provincial Reformatory, etc., stand as at present." Carried.

Mr. MILLER moved, seconded by Mr. SEXTON, "That sub-section 9 of section 6, relating to the Industrial Farm, Poor House, Alms House, Orphan Asylum, House of Industry, Lunatic Asylum, etc., stand for further consideration." Carried.