

was the law, and that it was a mere matter of convenience whether the House met in January or at an earlier time. He apprehended that it could be easily shown that the laws they had passed with reference to Algoma were constitutional and valid. The provision that the elections there should be held between the 20th May and the 19th November was introduced for the convenience of the electors of that district, and the people of Ontario, through their representatives in the House, were all assenting parties to it. They had a right to pass that law and he did not remember that any objection was raised at the time by hon. gentlemen opposite. His hon. friend had suggested a number of possible cases in which it would be inconvenient for the rest of the Province that there should be no complete House elected except during the six months when an election in Algoma could be held, and he then proceeded to state what the duties and functions of a Lieut.-Governor were. If the Lieut.-Governor were to do all the wrong things which the law allowed him to do, they had better not have one at all. (Hear, hear.) But the prerogatives of the Crown were held in trust for the people, and were to be exercised in such a way as not to affect the spirit and intention of the law. The evils which his hon. friend had pretended would occur if the Lieut.-Governor were to act in such a way that there would be no House for eleven or twelve months were evils which they were not to assume. It was very unlikely that the Lieutenant-Governor would cause such a state of things.

Mr. DEACON—Suppose you are hopelessly defeated next January; you cannot appeal to the country, because you cannot have a general election until next June.

Mr. MOWAT said they might have a general election next May.

Mr. MEREDITH—Suppose you are defeated in September.

Mr. MOWAT said in that case the Lieut.-Governor would have to consider two things. If the majority of the House should have confidence in the next Government, it would be reasonable enough to give them a chance to go to the electors if they could do so at once; but if the laws did not admit of that, it would be for the Lieutenant-Governor to consider whether the opposite party should not take charge of the Government at once, because that party would be shown by the vote to have the confidence of the country.

Mr. DEACON—How would you get your supplies if you were defeated in November?

Mr. MOWAT said there was a difficulty theoretically, but not practically. The British House of Commons voted the supplies in such cases. The custom was to vote the supplies necessary to carry on the government while a general election was pending, or else the business of the country would be stopped. If the Act passed in 1876 were not in existence, there was still the British North America Act, providing that the House should continue in existence four years from the return of the writs, and the Crown might still choose to make the Algoma writ returnable at a later date than the other writs, so that without it Parliament could not be complete. He thought he had said sufficient to show that there was no intention to deprive Algoma of the rights of representation, but that those rights should begin at the same time as those of the rest of the Province. No one ventured to exclude Algoma from representation for one day. It never had been done; our own statute had not made the change, and such an attempt would be unconstitutional, and in fact a tyranny. (Cheers.)

Mr. MEREDITH moved the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was carried, and the House adjourned at six o'clock.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

This Committee met this morning. Present, Messrs. Clarke (Wellington), chairman, Williams, Gibson, Ferris, Striker, Hardy, Harcourt, Deacon, Woods, Wills, Meredith, Morris, and Merrick. The immigration accounts for 1877 and 1878 were brought down at the request of Mr. Meredith, and Mr. Spence, of the Department, was examined in connection therewith. In the