

to provide for the inspection of insurance companies. The Bill was almost the copy of the Dominion Act, but was made to apply to the Province of Ontario, and the companies that would be affected by the Bill were other than those affected by the Dominion Act. Provision was made for the appointment of an inspector at a salary of \$2,000 a year, whose duties would be to examine the affairs of every Ontario company once a year, and to report thereon to the Government. The salary of the inspector and the expenses connected with the inspection were to be borne by the companies, who would contribute a *pro rata* sum, according to the business done by them.

Mr. LAUDER thought that something should be done to give the Dominion Government, which had the necessary machinery, the right of inspection of all Ontario Companies. He considered the division of the jurisdiction in this regard which took place at Confederation a mistake. If the amalgamation of Dominion and Ontario inspection took place, it would do away with the expense of establishing a local bureau, and would secure greater uniformity in the matter of insurance. A certificate from the head of the Dominion Insurance Department would be of much greater value to a small Ontario Company than one from a local inspector appointed at \$2,000 per annum.

Mr. MILLER said that the local insurance companies in Ontario were in a very unsatisfactory condition, and if the appointment of an inspector would increase their efficiency it would confer a benefit to the country. A very large sum of money was paid to foreign companies that might be kept in the country, and hon. gentlemen opposite, as they professed to be protectionists, ought not to cavil at any attempts to retain it in the Province. He thought it was a good suggestion that there should be no division in the jurisdiction over insurance companies, but considered that the Legislature should have authority over all the companies in the Province. He supported the Bill.

Mr. WOOD saw little difference between appointing an officer at \$2,000 a year or paying a Dominion officer a like sum. This Bill was asked for by the companies themselves.

Mr. MEREDITH—Is it not really for the purpose of providing an office to be filled by a friend of the Government?

Mr. WOOD utterly denied that anything of the kind was intended. There would no doubt be an office, but it might be filled by a friend of the hon. gentlemen opposite.

The Bill was read a second time.

#### PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. MOWAT in moving the second reading of the Act to make further provision respecting election of members of the Legislative Assembly explained in detail its provisions as follows:—That the duration of the House should be four years from the day for the return of the Algoma writ; the elections in Algoma, and Muskoka, and Parry Sound to take place, if practicable, upon the same day as in the rest of the Province; with regard to villages or towns lying in more than one municipality, it is provided that they shall, for electoral purposes, be considered within that Riding which at the last census had the smaller population. Where impossible to determine what the population of such a village is, the voters therein are to vote in the Riding where they would have voted had not the village been incorporated. The village of Blythe it is provided shall vote as if a proclamation of the preceding section had been issued. Carrying strong liquor to treat electors while canvassing is made a corrupt practice; a voter may mark either to the right or left of the name of the candidate upon the ballot paper; any marks upon the ballot paper made or omitted to be made by the returning-officer shall not void a ballot. The system of numbering the ballots is still continued. The system of issuing formal proclamations at various times during the year calling the House together is abolished.

Mr. SCOTT said in view of the contention of the hon. gentlemen opposite in the debate on the duration of the Legislature, he could hardly see the reason of providing that the House should date its existence from the return of the Algoma writ. The Government had been perfectly certain that this was stipulated in the British North America Act, and it seemed strange it should be introduced into the present Bill. It was an unfortunate provision, for if anything should delay the return of this writ the whole Province would be in the meantime disfranchised and without a Parliament. The spirit of the B. N. A. Act was that the House should go to the country once in four years; but this Bill arranged that it might or might not be so, as its life would be according to the time of the return of the Algoma writ. He believed it would be much more clearly defined if the spirit of the B. N. A. Act were followed. The life of Parliament should be made to date forty days from the return of the general writs. If no member had by that time been elected for Algoma the former member might sit in this House as representative of the constituency. By the present law it was impossible to have the election over in Algoma inside of forty-four days—thirty being allowed for the posting of the notices of nomination, and fourteen between the days of nomination and election.

Mr. SINCLAIR drew the attention of the Government to the matter of disqualification. If a member were unseated and disqualified, he could not occupy any position whatever in his municipality. This was a great hardship, for he might take the best legal advice, yet in the present unsettled state of the law might unwittingly violate the statute, as had been known in some cases. He thought some provision should be made to meet cases of this nature, as they might as well disqualify the candidate from following his regular occupation as preserve the law in its present form.

Mr. CREIGHTON did not see much in the objection of the last speaker. The profession of a man was one matter, but a municipal office was quite another. He believed if a man was disqualified as a candidate for this House, he had no right to serve his municipality in any capacity. He agreed with the hon. member for Peterboro' concerning the time of the beginning of Parliament, as he believed it would lessen the power of the Ministry of the day over the life of the Assembly. He referred to the section concerning the village of Blythe, which he claimed would place it in the constituency of East Huron, when it really belonged to West Huron. This was done, he believed, in the interest of a member of the House, and was only an attempt at jerry-mandering a constituency so as to keep it favourable to the Government. He believed the attempted change was not necessary. The people of that village had no doubt that they were in the Riding of

West Huron, and the Government would probably hear from them upon the subject. He objected also to the numbers being placed upon the ballot-paper and counterfoils, on the ground that it furnished a means of tracing the votes. The form of ballot used in the Dominion House was much preferable, and should be adopted by the Province.

Mr. MEREDITH said if it was perfectly clear, as hon. gentlemen opposite had claimed, that their view of the duration of the House was correct, he did not see what was the use of the second section of this Bill. He regarded this as a confession of doubt upon the point by the Attorney-General. The House should last only four years. If there was any merit in the ballot law—and he admitted there was—it was in the secrecy of the vote it provided. Therefore the ballots should be left without numbers, so that the vote might be absolutely a secret one. He trusted that the suggestion of the hon. member for North Bruce would not be accepted, as no punishment now imposed was too great for the man who acted corruptly in an election. He trusted the House would never again see, as it had before seen, a motion passed setting aside a solemn decision of the judges trying a case of infringement of the Election Law.

Mr. MOWAT said the suggestion of the hon. member for North Bruce would, if accepted, make necessary a modification of the law. He believed that in some cases great hardship was really suffered by candidates in this respect. With regard to the case cited by the hon. member for London, he was prepared at any time to justify and defend the action of the Government with regard to it. The decision of the Court was not set aside, but the parties were saved from the rigour of their sentence, as there had been clearly no intention of violating the law. In the cases of criminal conviction the Governor-General had the power to commute sentences, and in a case of this kind the only power who had any authority was the Legislature. The section with regard to the duration of Parliament was not a very vital point. He did not know but that it would be as well to make the life of Parliament date from the return of the body of the writs, as had been suggested. The hon. member for North Grey had stated, with regard to the section affecting the village of Blythe, that it was made for a corrupt purpose and in the interests of a member of the House. He supposed one must, upon occasions, bear that sort of thing, particularly from the impetuous and careless member for North Grey. (Cheers.) His colleagues and the hon. member said to be affected would be somewhat surprised to learn that there was anything wrong about this section. (Laughter.) A gentleman had come into his office to find out in what constituency this village really was, and as no authorities could be found upon the point this section had been inserted to provide for the case.

Mr. WHITE took exception to the word "others" in the Bill, by which the carrying of liquor for the purpose of giving it to persons other than electors was made a corrupt act. He also strongly objected to the clause which gave the voter power to select the form of oath he was obliged to take. He contended that the proposal of the hon. member for South Bruce was only introduced with the object to let down easily those friends of hon. gentlemen opposite who had been unseated and disqualified.

The Bill was read a second time.

#### CONCURRENCE.

Mr. WOOD moved that the report of the Committee of Supply be now received.

The following items were then concurred in:—

- Government House, \$5,580.
- Public and Separate School Inspection, \$20,250.
- Grants to poor schools, \$7,500.
- Collegiate Institutes and High Schools, \$75,500.
- Superannuated teachers, \$39,900.
- Agriculture, arts, literary and scientific institutions, \$107,350.
- Insane Asylum, Toronto, \$7,450.
- Insane Asylum, London, \$9,610.
- Insane Asylum, Hamilton, \$30,121 64.
- Insane Asylum, Kingston, \$17,475.
- Idiot Asylum, Orillia, \$1,200.
- Reformatory, Penetanguishene, \$7,632 13.
- Deaf and Dumb Institute, Belleville, \$4,891.
- Blind Institute, Brantford, \$5,764.
- Normal School and Education Office, \$2,000.
- Osgoode Hall, \$1,500.
- Government House, \$3,000.
- Parliament Buildings, \$1,500.
- Works in the district of Algoma, \$900.
- Works in Thunder Bay District, \$1,000.

Mr. MILLER pointed out that there was great difficulty in following the items as they were called out by the clerk, as the resolutions which the House were considering were not in the hands of all the members.

Mr. MERRICK said that the objection taken was a very judicious one. It was impossible to identify the items as they were called, as they were numbered differently in the estimates and in the resolutions.

Mr. LAUDER thought the objection a very small one. The business had always been done in that way since there had been a Legislature.

Mr. MEREDITH said that now the objection had been taken he hoped the Government would consider it. He could not see why a copy of the resolutions that had been printed should not be given to every member of the House, instead of being confined to two or three.

Mr. WOOD said that the matter would be attended to in the future, but it was impossible to have it righted this session.

Mr. BELL said that the House had got up to the fiftieth resolution before he had been able to find where they were. He believed that his position was that of nineteen-twentieths of the members of the House.

Mr. FRASER said that if the members wished to follow the resolutions they would have to take their estimates. The sheets on which the resolutions were printed were only got up for the convenience of the Clerk, who had three or four additional copies struck off and given to members on both sides of the House.

Mr. CREIGHTON said that the difficulty could be got over by numbering the items in the estimates the same as in the resolutions.

Mr. ROSS said that great difficulty was experi-