

forthwith passed the reduction, and reported.

Mr. SCOTT proceeded to call attention to the course of the supporters of the Government in this and other matters. He claimed that the duties of the Inspector of Registry Offices were as important as those of the Inspector of Asylums and Prisons. Yet the salary was about half as large. He believed the reason why this reduction was made was that the gentleman occupying this position was of a different way of thinking from themselves.

Mr. ROSS said there was a great difference between the two officers. Mr. Langmuir was a most efficient officer, and worked assiduously in the service of the public, and gave his whole time to his work, but the Inspector of Registry Offices was a practising lawyer, and his duties were not nearly so arduous as those of the other.

Mr. FRASER claimed that the hon. gentleman was now trying to prove to the House that they had done wrong in effecting this reduction.

Mr. SCOTT said this was not what he had said.

Mr. FRASER claimed that this was the effect of what had been said, and the hon. gentleman had said further that the supporters of the Government had voted this reduction. He quite lost sight of the fact that not only gentlemen on his own side of the House, but himself as well, had voted for this reduction, and it did not lie in his or their mouths to find fault with it. The fact was the policy which they had attempted to carry out this evening was not working very successfully, and his hon. friend was feeling very angry. (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. MEREDITH contended that hon. gentlemen opposite had steadily refused to decrease their majority in favour of maintaining the salaries of the Civil Service officials until they reached a gentleman who was in opposition to them politically. He denied that political reasons had influenced him or his party in attacking the salary of any of the officials.

Mr. PARDEE was sorry that the House had seen fit to reduce the salary of the Inspector of Registry Offices, because there was a necessity for the inspection, and because he performed his duties most efficiently. That gentleman, however, had only to thank hon. gentlemen opposite for the reduction, for although they believed that his salary was not too large they refused to stand by the Government when they upheld his salary.

Mr. HARDY said he was at a loss to understand the anger that had been exhibited by hon. gentlemen opposite. They had gained one point and were irritated; if they gained a few more, their anger would know no bounds. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MORRIS contended that the Opposition had taken a proper stand in the reduction of the Civil Service salaries.

Mr. BALLANTYNE pointed out that there was no analogy between the case of the Inspector of Registry Offices and that of the Civil Service officials, as the former was allowed to practise his profession, while the latter were forced to give their whole time to their duties. He showed that the reduction in the salaries of the deputy heads of the various Departments would very seriously impair the efficiency of the Civil Service. Rather than impair that efficiency he would resign his seat in the House. (Hear, hear.) His experience was that there was no more honest and capable officers to be found than those who served the Ontario Government. He wished that the people of the country had been in the galleries to-night that they might have witnessed the action of hon. gentlemen opposite, and have witnessed the hollowness of the motions that had been made. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SINCLAIR thought that the conduct of the Opposition had shown that very little of the spirit of their late leader had descended upon them. He was neither afraid nor ashamed to stand by the salaries which were received by the members of the Civil Service of Ontario. None of them were paid too much, and he thought it was a most inopportune time to tell them that because there was depression in the country they should be made to keenly participate in it.

Mr. CURRIE said that he did not think the effect of the vote would be either that the Government or the Inspector of Registry Offices would resign. He was quite sure that officer would accept thankfully his \$1,500 a year.

Mr. GIBSON said that the House had been compelled to witness a humiliating spectacle to-night, and all from a desire on the part of the six gentlemen on the front seats opposite to obtain possession of the Government benches by making a stepping-stone of the Civil Service. He contended that the Government and their supporters had taken the proper position in reference to the questions that had been raised.

Mr. CALVIN maintained that there was no necessity for the office of Inspector of Registry Offices.

Mr. SCOTT explained that he had made no attack upon hon. gentlemen opposite because they had voted to reduce the salary of the Inspector of Registry Offices, but he had pointed out that it seemed to him that they were discussing the question with reference to the political proclivities of the officer rather than upon its real merits.

Mr. FRASER had been paying special attention to what had been uttered by the hon. gentleman, and his manner as well as his remarks had impressed him (Mr. Fraser) with the opinion that he was denouncing members on that side of the House who had voted with him in reducing the salary of the Inspector of Registry Offices.

After a few remarks by Mr. Mills the item for Miscellaneous, reduced by \$500, was concurred in upon the following division:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bishop, Bonfield, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Currie, Deroche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fraser, Gibson, Graham, Grant, Harcourt, Hardy, Hay, Lane, Lyon (Algoma), Lyon (Halton), McCraney, McLaws, McLeod, McMahon, Massie, Master, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Patterson, Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Snetsinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdifield, Wilson, Wood—44.

NAYS.—Messrs. Baker, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Calvin, Code, Coutts, Creighton, Deacon, Flesher, Hargrave, Harkin, Kean, Lauder, McDougall, McGowan, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Morris, Mostyn, Parkhill, Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, White, Wigle, Wills—30.

Mr. MOWAT moved that the House do now adjourn.

Carried on a division.

The House adjourned at 1:30 a. m.

THURSDAY, March 6.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 o'clock.

Prayers were read by Rev. H. D. Powis.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. HARDY presented the report of the Select Committee on the Municipal Act, and the reports of a number of Select Committees on separate Private Bills.

#### THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:—

To amend the Railway Act of Ontario.—Mr. Fraser.

To further amend the Act incorporating the Hamilton Gas Light Company.—Mr. Williams.

#### JUSTICE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill to provide for the Administration of Justice in the northerly and westerly parts of Ontario.—Mr. Mowat.

Mr. MEREDITH asked what additional appointments would be made under the Bill.

Mr. MOWAT said that two stipendiary magistrates and one sheriff would be appointed.

The Bill was reported.

#### INSPECTION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Bill to provide for the Inspection of Insurance Companies was passed through Committee.

#### ELECTIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY.

The House went into Committee on the Bill to make further provisions respecting elections to the Legislative Assembly.—Mr. Mowat.

Mr. MEREDITH said he thought it would be advisable to appoint a statutory returning-officer.

Mr. MOWAT would consider the suggestion, but pointed out that in some cases a fixed officer might not be able to execute the writ, and the election would consequently be delayed. With regard to the village of Blyth, which was mentioned in a special clause of this Act, the hon. member for North Grey had made some statements on the occasion of the second reading of the Bill. The general clauses of the Bill provided that, in cases where it was doubtful to which riding a village or town belonged, it should be considered to belong to that one which had the smaller population. This village was partly in East and partly in West Huron, and it was extremely doubtful what the respective populations were, so that, in view of the coming elections, it was well to settle the matter definitely, so as to prevent an appeal to the Courts. The hon. member for East Grey had spoken of this section as being in the interests of the hon. member for West Huron, but he (Mr. Mowat) had never spoken to that gentleman upon the matter, and there had been no intention whatever of anything of this kind. The sole object of the section was to provide that citizens of the village should vote each in the division in which he lived.

Mr. GIBSON said that the population in these ridings were so evenly balanced that that one would preponderate with which the population of Blyth was counted. He repudiated the insinuation that this section was put in with a view to party gain, as the attention of the Attorney-General had been called to it by himself without the knowledge of the hon. member for West Huron.

Mr. CREIGHTON referred to the fact that the Attorney-General had said, in a former discussion on this point, that he (Mr. Creighton) was "reckless." He could only say that if this were so his reckless statements were based on the Attorney-General's own figures. He then proceeded to quote from the Attorney-General's speech upon the question of the electoral divisions of Huron in the session of 1874-5 the numbers of the population of the various townships which were given in that speech, showing that the population was known at that time. He stated that this section showed that this was a case of attempted "jerry-mandering."

The House adjourned at one o'clock.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

#### PETITION.

The petition of the Great Western Railway Company, that the Bill before the House respecting the London Junction Railway may not pass, was presented.

#### MARSH LANDS.

The Bill to incorporate the Lake Scuzog Marsh Lands Draining Company was read a third time.

#### INSPECTION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Bill to provide for the inspection of Insurance Companies having been amended in Committee, was read a third time.

#### SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read a second time:—

Respecting the application of the Religious Institutions Act to the Church of England.—Mr. Mowat.

To extend the Act respecting the Heir, Devisee, and Assignee Commission.—Mr. Mowat.

#### LAW OF DOWER.

The Bill to amend the Law of Dower came up for a second reading.

Mr. MOWAT explained that when a wife barred her dower to a piece of property mortgaged to perhaps one-tenth of its value she practically deprived herself of all interest in the property, and therefore an amendment was needed in the law, which this Bill was intended to provide.

The Bill was read a second time.

#### ELECTIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY.

The House again went into Committee on the Bill to make further provisions respecting the elections to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. MOWAT said the hon. member for North Grey seemed most desirous that he should not be thought reckless, and pleaded his own (Mr. Mowat's) figures in his defence, but the accusation of recklessness against him had been made on account of his charge of corruption against the Government, not at all on a question of figures.

Mr. MEREDITH—Where did those figures come from?

Mr. MOWAT replied that part had come from the census, and part were estimated from other sources, and he had collected them only for his own guidance, but had given them to the House. These, however,

Wood

Mowat

Paxton