

known to you the gratification with which he has received it, as well as his appreciation of the sentiments of loyalty to the Sovereign and personal good will towards himself expressed in the said address.

I am further to state that His Excellency will have much pleasure in preserving this very handsomely engrossed and illuminated address.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. A. CHAPLEAU,
Secretary of State.

His Honour Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario,
Toronto.

SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS.

Mr. McLaughlin's bill respecting the study of anatomy, and Mr. Meredith's bill to amend the Controverted Election Act of Ontario were withdrawn.

RELIEF OF RETURNING-OFFICERS.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD moved the second reading of the bill to relieve the returning-officers of Muskoka and Algoma.

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

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD resumed the discussion on his bill, and quoted precedents to cover his argument as to why the bill should be adopted. He cited the bill which had been passed in the Dominion Parliament, "The Independence of Parliament Act," by which Sir Charles Tupper took his seat when, without the passage of this bill, he would have been subject to heavy penalties, being High Commissioner for Canada at the same time. In the case of the deputy returning-officers in Muskoka and Algoma he had shown that they were ignorant of the law. They got what they believed was a statement of the law. The great constitutional lawyer had advised Sir Charles Tupper to take his seat in violation of the law. He (Mr. Widdifield) had carefully guarded his bill from any objection. These returning-officers were entitled to come to this House, and asked for relief. He moved the second reading of his bill.

Mr. CREIGHTON thought the argument of the hon. gentleman would not hold water. There was a great difference between the two bills which had been introduced in the Dominion Parliament and the Legislature. The cases could not be compared at all.

Mr. CREIGHTON opposed the measure.

Mr. BADGEROW showed that the leader of the Opposition believed that discretion to refuse votes was given by the bill to returning-officers, and evidenced his speeches on the passing of the Act as proof.

Mr. MEREDITH replied, stating that his remarks had been addressed to an amendment to the existing law introduced last session providing for the registration of votes by the returning-officer.

Mr. MOWAT said if he had any doubt of the propriety of passing the present bill before the speech of the leader of the Opposition he had none now. He had admitted that for a technical breach of the law the returning-officer should be relieved, and he goes further and said he was prepared to say that if a man had no right to vote no penalty should be imposed for refusing to receive the vote of such a man. The leader of the Opposition said, as a matter of law a returning-officer who refused to receive a bad vote was not liable to a penalty, but he forgot that two of the three judges who had given judgment in this case had held to the contrary, that where the vote was a bad one the returning-officer was bound to receive it. The Act said that where there is a voters' list the returning-officer shall receive all voters' votes who are named in that list; but where there was no voters' list, under section 92 of the Act, there were no such words. (Hear, hear.) When there was a list of voters, it was sealed by the judge. The voters had two opportunities to object to the list—before the Court of Revision and before the County Judge. Where there was no list, the returning-officer had to act according to his best judgment. When there were voters' lists, this discretion was unnecessary. Under these circumstances this seemed to be a case where they were bound to relieve their own officers when they voted in good faith. He hoped the common sense and justice of the bill would have a good effect upon the House, and he had no hesitation in supporting the second reading. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. MORRIS thought the bill a dangerous one.

Mr. MEREDITH asked if the promoter of the bill was prepared to accept the bill to relieve the returning-officer if the vote was a bad one.

Mr. PARDEE said he did not think such would be fair.

A division was called, and the motion for the second reading was carried by the following vote:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Badgerow, Balfour, Baxter, Bishop, Caldwell, Cascaden, Chisholm, Cooke, Dowling, Drury, Dryden, Ferris, Fraser, Freeman, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gillies, Gould, Graham, Hagar, Harcourt, Hardy, Hart, Laidlaw, Lyon, McCraney, McIntyre, McKenzie, McKim, McLaughlin, McMahon, Master, Morin, Mowat, Neelon, O'Connor, Pardee, Ross (Huron), Snider, Waters, Widdifield, Young—42.

NAYS.—Messrs. Baskerville, Blezard, Blythe, Breton, Broder, Carnegie, Clarke (Toronto), Creighton, Denison, Ermatinger, Fell, Gray, Hammell, Hess, Kerns, Lees, McKay, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Morris, Mulholland, Preston, Robillard, Roe, White, Wood—28.

Mr. Awrey paired with Mr. Kerr, Mr. Phelps paired with Mr. McGhee, Mr. Sills paired with Mr. Metcalfe.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the bill going through any further stages, and his wish was complied with.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

The House went into committee on the Supplementary Estimates, and the following items were adopted:—Civil government, \$900; Legislation, \$2,000; Administration of Justice, for constitutional cases, additional, \$7,000; re Commission of Enquiry into charges of bribery, \$10,000; frontier force, \$1,000; additional for salaries of stipendiary magistrate, Rat Portage, \$400; along line of Canadian Pacific Railway, \$1,200; expenses re gaol at Sudbury, \$200; total, \$19,800. Public Institutions, maintenance, \$400. Agriculture, purchase of thoroughbred stock for Model Farm, \$25,000; other items, \$900. Bureau of Statistics, for assistance, \$2,000; Hospitals and Charities, \$1,075; Public Buildings, \$34,450; Public Works, \$3,000; Charges on Crown Lands, \$17,748 74; Charges on Crown Lands (all re-vote except \$4,000, agents' salaries), \$17,748 74; Refund Account, \$2,280 35; Miscellaneous, \$6,950; Expenses of Legislation, &c., \$30,000, the last item being for January, 1885.

The estimates were then concurred in to that relating to Colonization Roads, when Mr. CARNEGIE moved in amendment:—

That the following words be added to the resolution:—But while concurring in the resolution, this House is of opinion that appropriations made out of the vote of \$20,000 for short new roads and repairs should be made under the authority of an Order in Council passed upon the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands or one of his officers.

Mr. MERICK moved:—

"That all the words after the word resolution in the amendment be struck out and the following substituted therefor:—And affirming its readiness to vote all reasonable sums required for the purpose of providing and maintaining necessary roads in the new settlement, and the recognizing the just rights of the settlers in the new districts to receive liberal assistance in these respects, this House would fail in its duty if it did not, as it hereby does express its disapprobation of the action of the Government in expending without the sanction of this House a sum of \$17,212 16 in excess of the appropriation of \$17,000 for this service in a constituency in which an important election contest was pending and during such contest, and thereby unfairly to promote the election of the candidate who was receiving the support of the Government."

A division on the amendment to the amendment was taken with the result that it was lost by 30 to 43:—

YEAS.—Baskerville, Blythe, Breton, Broder, Carnegie, Clancy, Clarke (Toronto), Creighton, Denison, Ermatinger, Fell, Gray, Hammell, Hess, Kerns, Lees, McCollum, McKay, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Morris, Mulholland, Neelon, Preston, Robillard, Roe, White, Wilnot, Wood—30.

NAYS.—Awrey, Badgerow, Balfour, Baxter, Bishop, Caldwell, Cascaden, Chisholm, Dowling, Drury, Dryden, Ferris, Fraser, Freeman, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gillies, Gould, Graham, Hagar, Harcourt, Hardy, Hart, Laidlaw, Lyon, McCraney, McIntyre, McKenzie, McKim, McLaughlin, McMahon, Master, Morin, Mowat, Murray, O'Connor, Pardee, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Snider, Waters, Widdifield, Young—43.

The amendment was lost on the same division, and the resolution carried.

Mr. ROSS (Huron) introduced the bill granting to Her Majesty certain sums for civil government.

It was read three times.

THE ELECTION LAW.

Mr. MOWAT moved that the House again go into Committee on the bill for the amendment of the election law, and for the better prevention of corrupt and illegal practices at elections to the Legislative Assembly. He stated that where there were assessment rolls he proposed to leave the law as it was now, so that all having Indian blood, etc., would remain in the same position as now. He also proposed to make provision for a recount in districts by the district judge.

These amendments were agreed to.

Mr. MEREDITH moved in amendment that a recount be permitted where the majority exceeds 50.

This was lost.

ALGOMA RETURNING-OFFICERS.

Mr. MOWAT proposed an amendment to the bill providing for the creation of a commission of judges to try the bribery conspirators.

In reply to Mr. MEREDITH he said he would take care that the commission was wide enough to include an examination into the conduct of any hon. gentleman on both sides of the House, provided they thought fit.

The bill was reported.

The House then went into Committee on Mr. WIDDIFIELD'S bill with regard to returning-officers, and it was amended so as to prevent a plaintiff who is the voter in respect to which the action is brought to have his costs taxed against the defendant up to the time of the passage of the bill.

The bill was reported.

The bill was read a third time after Mr. MEREDITH had moved an amendment requiring the returning officers to prove that they acted in good faith had been voted down by 29 to 42.

THE ELECTION LAW.

Mr. HARCOURT moved the House again in Committee on an amendment to the Election Law, making the Canadian law conform to the English Ballot Act with respect to the voidance of the election, for certain minor irregularities in