

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

FIFTH PARLIAMENT.--FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, March 24.

The discussion was continued on Mr. Harcourt's amendment.

Mr. MOWAT said every person knew that the object of this legislation was to do every person justice. There was an abundance of precedents for passing such *ex post facto* legislation.

Mr. CREIGHTON opposed the amendment.

The amendment was carried on a vote of 39 to 28.

The House went into Committee, with Mr. Baxter in the chair, and the bill was reported with the amendment.

Mr. MONK then moved an amendment to the bill that the appointment of returning-officers in Algoma, Muskoka, and Parry Sound be by the same persons as in other ridings.

The amendment was lost on a vote of 28 to 40.

Mr. WHITE moved an amendment to strike out the section with reference to Indian voters, and it was lost on the same division.

Mr. GRAY moved another amendment, that clause 18 be struck out of the bill on the ground that it gave deputy returning-officers power to reject what votes in their judgment they deemed improper ones.

This amendment was also lost on a vote of 28 to 40.

Mr. ROBILLARD moved to strike out the clause depriving owners of land in unorganized districts who do not reside thereon of the right to vote. Amendment lost.

Mr. MEREDITH moved another amendment to enable the Court to make an amendment to the pleadings in election cases, so that the real issue might be tried. Lost.

Mr. MEREDITH then moved another amendment to enable the Court to say that there should be a recount when the majority of the successful candidate was 50 or over. Lost.

Mr. CLANCY moved that the providing of railway passes to voters be a corrupt practice.

Mr. MOWAT agreed to the amendment which was carried.

The bill was then read a third time.

THE CONSPIRACY CASE.

Mr. HARCOURT presented the report of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections with reference to the conspiracy case. The committee reported that owing to the lateness of the session they would be unable to continue their investigation, and recommended that the investigation be left in the hands of a Royal Commission to be composed of Judges, with at least one Judge of the Supreme Court, and that the committee be discharged. The committee reported that Mr. H. P. Dwight, general manager of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company had refused to produce certain telegrams on being summoned by the Speaker.

The report was received.

Mr. FRASER then moved that a petition be sent to the Lieut.-Governor in Council for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the charges of bribery as set out in the resolution of the Attorney-General, of the 17th of March, and that there be three commissioners, composed of Judges, one available therefor to be a Judge of the Supreme Court, the said commissioners to have all the powers given under the statutes regarding such cases. It was further resolved that Mr. Speaker be hereby empowered to produce any documents or moneys before such Commission.

The resolution was passed, and the House adjourned at 3:40 a.m.

TUESDAY, March 25.

The Speaker took the chair at 2:30 p.m.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. FERRIS presented the report of the Public Accounts Committee, together with a *verbatim* report of the evidence given before the Committee.

The House adjourned till 3 p.m.

THE PROROGATION.

Yesterday, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, His Honour the Hon. John Beverley Robinson, the Lieutenant-Governor, proceeded in state to the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly, and took his seat on the Throne.

The Clerk Assistant then read the titles of the bills that had passed, severally, as follows --

An Act to confirm a certain by-law of the Corporation of the city of Kingston.

An Act to incorporate the town of Port Arthur.

An Act to incorporate the Brockville, Westport, & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Gananoque and Rideau Railway Company.

An Act to declare valid a certain survey of part of the town of Cornwall.

An Act to authorize the town of Collingwood to issue certain debentures.

An Act to incorporate the Cascadilla Railway Company.

An Act respecting the trusts of the will of the late Samuel B. Smith, deceased.

An Act respecting a certain by-law of the town of Trenton.

An Act to consolidate the debt of the town of