

Bible read in the schools more generally and more systematically. It was to secure this object that the book of selections was adopted at the instance and upon the recommendation of the Protestant clergy of all denominations, without objection from any quarter until, for political purposes, the book so recommended and adopted, or any book of Scripture selections, began to be denounced. The Government agree with the Protestant clergymen who revised and recommended the book (some of whom have since been using it at family worship in their own homes) that it would be an advantage that the Scripture readings in the schools should be from the book of selections, but political agitation has created in some quarters a prejudice against this course and thus, for a time has created in some quarters a prejudice against this course, and this for a time deprived the book of its usefulness where this prejudice exists. Where, for this or any reason, the trustees of a school prefer that the reading shall be from the Bible itself instead of from the book of selections, or where trustees prefer to have passages read which are not in the book of selections, the Government have no desire to interfere, and do not propose to interfere, so long as the Bible or its contents are read daily and systematically. If the text of the regulation requires any modification in order to admit of this course, the modification will be made.

Mr. MEREDITH moved for an order of the House for a return showing, as to each vacancy which has occurred since the first day of January, 1884, in the offices of sheriff, registrar of deeds, or county Crown attorney; when the vacancy occurred; how it was created; when it was filled; by whom it was filled; and showing also, which of such vacancies still remain unfilled. He said that the delay of the Government in filling a number of these important

offices had been widely and adversely commented upon. It was evident that these offices were kept open for political purposes in order that they might dangle before the eyes of the people. He made special mention of those to which the Attorney-General had referred in his reply to the member for Carleton (Mr. Mouck), charging, especially in the case of the registrarship of Carleton, that the appointment had been promised to the brother of a gentleman who controlled a certain journal in the western part of the Province which had strongly supported this Government; but that gentleman, unwilling to take the Government's "promise to pay," had insisted upon the appointment being made before the election was held, and this, it appeared, had been done. As to the registrarship of Lennox, it seemed extraordinary that the Attorney-General's memory should have played him so false as he said it had. The holding open of these offices for long terms must mean one of two things. Either the public service suffered or else the office was unnecessary and the person who did the work could be engaged permanently to do it and the salary of the figure head saved.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said it must have been exceedingly difficult for the hon. gentleman to say what he had said on this subject. The hon. gentleman fortunately had not much influence in this Province, but he had at Ottawa. He was the lieutenant of the Premier. These offices of which complaint was made were ministerial offices, the duties of which might properly be performed by deputy. The duties in these cases had been performed by deputies, and the Government was careful in every case not to allow delay except where there were deputies in whom they

had confidence. There was no charge made by anybody, even by the leader of the Opposition, that the public interests had suffered, or that the duties of these offices had been neglected. There were, of course, difficulties in filling these offices, for there were rival applicants, many of whom deserved well of the Government and of the Province. Especially were there difficulties where the member representing the constituency was one who had no confidence in the Government, and in whom the Government had no confidence. But though the hon. gentleman found such grievous fault in those cases he had no fault to find with the

DELAY IN FILLING DOMINION OFFICES,
some of which were judicial offices, the work of which could not be done by deputy, causing serious loss, delay and inconvenience to the public. The hon. gentleman was the most important man in his party in the Province and it was to be presumed that these delays were by his advice, at least without his protest against them. Senatorships, which the hon. gentleman at least regarded as very important offices, were left open and filled just the day before the election. The collectorship of Customs at Hamilton in the same way was kept vacant, and kept so for a member of Parliament, that he might take the place after the dissolution of the House. The hon. gentleman said deserving men had been passed over in the appointment to the Carleton registrarship. So it was in every case, deserving men had to be passed over. The appointee was a resident of Ottawa, a respectable man, and one well fitted to fill the office. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried.

Mr. CREIGHTON said that if there did not happen to be a Government in Ottawa, gentlemen opposite would have no defence. They continually pleaded the action of the Ottawa Government, and yet they continually condemned that Government. But this would not satisfy the people. The plea was raised that the public service did not suffer because there were good deputies in these cases. If that were so, it would be much better to give the efficient deputy a slight increase of salary and so save the Province a great deal of money which was now on the Government's showing wasted.

DOMINION OFFICIALS' EXEMPTION.

Mr. CREIGHTON moved that in the opinion of this House it is unjust to other classes of the community who are taxed on their incomes that the salaries of officials holding office under the Government of Canada should be exempt from municipal taxation; that the constitutional right to tax such salaries for municipal purposes is a subject of such importance that an authoritative decision thereon should be had from the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, and the matter being one of general interest throughout the Province, and in which no municipality is exclusively interested, steps ought to be taken by the Government of Ontario for obtaining such a decision.

Hon. O. MOWAT said that if he had been somewhat successful in appeals to the Privy Council it was because he had carefully considered the cases which he took there. He quite agreed with his hon. friend from North Grey as to the glaring absurdity of these exemptions. He agreed with him that they were contrary to all right, propriety and reason. So far as Provincial officials were concerned, the Government had acted on that view, and made their salaries liable to taxation. The question related merely to the salaries of Dominion officials. His learned friend—(Laughter)—he thought that term was quite