

months hence.

Mr. Mowat, on rising, was received with cheers. He declared that he would not withdraw the bill on any consideration. The Act was drawn up in the interests of the City of Toronto and he defied the leader of the Opposition to point out one single item of the bill that would go to show that he was inconsistent with his past record. Except where the public interests demanded it, he denied that the Government had at all increased the number of offices or amount of patronage at their disposal. The object of the bill was to make the registry office more efficient than it had been, and surely that was a sufficient object. He claimed that the result of this bill would be to make the registry office more efficient. As to the alleged inconsistency between his conduct now and his conduct on a certain occasion thirty years ago—the year in question, 1853, was a very long time ago, and he was not quite sure he could recollect exactly what the circumstances of the case were. He did not consider for one thing that he was bound to coincide now exactly with all the views he held thirty years ago. At the same time, so far as he could recollect, he occupied the same position that he occupied thirty years ago in respect to this particular matter. The proposition then, if he recollected rightly, was to institute a registry office in every riding in this Province. He disapproved of that proposition then, and would do so again were the question to arise. He defied the leader of the Opposition or anybody else to point to a single registry office created by him in any part of the Province which had not been absolutely necessary.

Mr. Clancy opposed the bill, reiterating the arguments previously used against it, and expressing the hope, as he said, that members of the Government side of the House would for once muster the courage of their convictions and vote against it.

Mr. Waters gave the bill a hearty support. He gave statistics showing the tremendous growth of the work of the registry office. In 1886, for instance, the number of instruments registered was 14,243, and the year afterwards the number had increased to 17,639. Contrasting these figures with those of other places, Mr. Waters mentioned that in the city represented by the leader of the Opposition (London) the number of instruments registered was but 1,644 in 1887, or less than half the amount of actual increase between 1886 and 1887 in the City of Toronto alone.

Mr. Harcourt, in a seven or eight minute speech, rose to higher flights of eloquence than any of his predecessors. He referred to the use of the words "infamous" and "outrageous" by the Opposition (Mr. Creighton here nodded his head approvingly), and remarked that the listener would imagine that those words—the strongest the English language could supply—were applied not to a Government with the clean and excellent record of the Government of Ontario, but to a Government, say, that starved thousands of its Indian subjects, that had put into a high place the agent that had starved those Indians, the Government that without the consent of the people and against the will of the people had imposed upon the people as many as 633 appointments, every one of them of considerable emolument. Mr. Harcourt aroused a good deal of enthusiasm by these sharp and incisive remarks, which, being unanswerable, were met with a loud and ironical laugh by the leader of the Opposition. He maintained the exceptional growth of the city demanded the step which the Government had taken with respect to registration. He denied that officials under the Reform party did anything towards the election of members on his side of the House, but that could not be said of the Tories in Ottawa. (Great cheering.) He would vote with pleasure for the second reading of the bill. Mr. Dance said that his election in Elgin had nothing to do with the bill before the House, notwithstanding the efforts put forth by previous speakers. (Cheers.)

Mr. Ingram thought that Mr. Dance would have a difficulty in reconciling his ante-election speeches with his statement on the bill under consideration. (Government ironical cheers.)

Mr. Rorke said that he would oppose the bill, feeling that it was against the general interest of the country.

Mr. G. B. Smith, on rising, was received with great applause. He said that the fact that the Mayor of Toronto was not present to protest against the bill was sufficient evidence that its provisions were acceptable to the citizens of Toronto. The bill was framed in the interests of the people of Toronto, and they were the proper judges of their own affairs, and so far as he (the

speaker) was concerned, the legislation proposed was in the interests of the city.

Mr. Balfour had no hesitation in giving his support to the bill, believing that the people of Toronto were not called upon to pay anything out of the way for the increased accommodation by the establishment of another registry office.

Mr. Ostrom continued the debate, after which Mr. H. E. Clarke was pained at the attack made by the member for East York on the Mayor of Toronto for not being present to oppose the bill. The Mayor would have been here and voted against the bill had it been possible. Mr. Clarke then objected to the discussion of Dominion politics by Mr. Harcourt, proceeded to insist that Sir John Macdonald was the greatest statesman the country had ever produced, and sat down with his usual smile.

Mr. G. B. Smith denied that he intended making an attack on the Mayor, after which Mr. Metcalfe relieved the monotony of the debate by telling the House many of his experiences amongst the Indians of the Northwest. He never knew of any case when the Indians were starved. (Laughter.)

Mr. Craig attacked the bill, after which the amendment was defeated by the following vote:

THIRTY-ONE TO FIFTY.

YEAS.—Blyth, Clancy, Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Craig, Creighton, Cruess, Fell, French, Hammell, Hess, Hudson, Ingram, Kerns, Lees, Marter, Meacham, Meredith, Metcalfe, Miller, Monk, Morgan, Ostrom, Preston, Rorke, Smith (Frontenac), Stewart, Tooley, Whitney, Willoughby, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—31.

NAYS.—Allan, Armstrong, Awrey, Balfour, Ballantyne, Bishop, Blezard, Bronson, Caldwell, Chisholm, Clarke (Wellington), Connee, Dack, Dance, Drury, Evanturel, Ferguson, Field, Fraser, Freeman, Garson, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Gould, Graham, Guthrie, Harcourt, Hardy, Lyon, McAndrew, McKay, McMahon, Mack, Morin, Mowat, Murray, O'Connor, Pacaud, Phelps, Rayside, Robillard, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Smith (York), Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Waters, Wood (Brant)—50.

The Attorney-General then moved the second reading of the bill respecting the appeals on prosecutions to enforce penalties and offences under Provincial Acts. The House then adjourned.

#### AROUND THE HOUSE.

ITEMS OF THE HOUSE, THE LOBBIES AND THE DEPARTMENTS.

At the meeting of the Railway Committee yesterday forenoon the first bill considered was one in charge of Mr. Balfour, to incorporate the Amherstburg, Lake Shore & Blenheim railway. It is proposed to run this railway through the fertile and populous Townships of Essex and Kent, lying along the Lake Erie shore from Amherstburg, at the mouth of the Detroit River, a distance of 60 miles east, to Blenheim, on the Erie & Lake Huron railway, which runs north to Chatham and Sarnia. All the other lines now run through the northern townships of the southwestern peninsula. By Mr. Balfour's bill power is also taken to connect Amherstburg and the valuable islands at the mouth of the Detroit River with Windsor and Detroit by a line running just back from the river front. The parties seeking incorporation under the bill are all prominent business and public men of the two counties, and several citizens of Detroit, Mich. The bill was opposed before the Railway Committee by Messrs. Kingsmill and Symons, on behalf of the Canada Southern railway, and by Messrs. Wragge and Lash, Q.C., on behalf of the Grand Trunk. Mr. Balfour, J. C. Patterson, M.P., and A. Campbell, M.P., for Kent, appeared in support of the bill,

and the committee almost unanimously decided in their favor, and reported the bill with but slight amendments. As soon as the season opens it is proposed to push this line vigorously in connection with the Lake Erie, Essex & Detroit River railway. Besides opening up one of the finest fruit and grain regions in the Province, it will run along the natural gas belt throughout the whole region where that valuable commodity is to be found.

The western division of the new registry office in Toronto begins at Spadina avenue, the Government having come to the conclusion that the business of the city will be enhanced by providing for the growing requirements of the city in that direction.

Hon. Mr. Hardy, in moving the second reading of the bill to grant representation in the Assembly to the District of Nipissing, gave a graphic description of the development of Northwestern Ontario. He impressed the House with what is well known, that the Government is doing everything possible to advance the interests of every portion of the Province. The Commissioner of Crown Lands told the House that from 17,000 to 20,000 people live in the district, and it was only fair that they should have a voice in regulating the affairs of their own locality, if not the Province. There was no point in the argument of the member for North Grey, that Nipissing should not get a representative because the number of the members of the House would be increased, and if there was, the cheers of the House after the Hon. Mr. Hardy sat down ought to convince any one that Ontario will be allowed to expand not only from a representative stand, but also from its territorial development.