

complimented it upon the good humor it generally enjoyed and the good language generally displayed by the members in its debates. Then the love feast ended.

After this Mr. Awrey got up and replied to the telegrams read by Mr. Meredith during the afternoon, giving Mr. W. E. Sanford's reply to a charge made by Mr. Awrey to the effect that Mr. W. E. Sanford had supplied goods under contract, without tender, to the Dominion Government, using the argument to show the practice of the Dominion Government, and of every Government, so far as he knew, of giving to their friends certain patronage when the Government lost nothing by so doing, and in those cases in which it was impossible to tender for the supplies needed. The hon. gentleman then quoted the returns of the Dominion public accounts to show that, after all, Messrs. W. E. Sanford & Co. had done as he had charged last week, and reading the telegrams over a second time, charged that they were so ambiguously worded that they did not really deny the statement made. He showed that Mr. Sanford had furnished tunics to the volunteers going to the Northwest, and that those tunics had been furnished without tender.

Then Mr. Metcalfe rose and treated the House to a dissertation on friendship and love, lectured the members on both sides for having lost their tempers, and told them not to do it again. He advised them to cultivate less the bump of combativeness, and more the bumps of benevolence and amity. Then he dropped into poetry in his usual manner, and sat down, leaving the House convulsed with laughter.

Mr. Meredith rose again and claimed that Mr. Awrey was unfair in quoting the case he had mentioned. The tunics in question were wanted in an emergency, and the Government had no time to tender, but had to get them from whatever place kept them in stock.

Mr. Awrey thought that the instance was not an unfair one to quote. He had not blamed the Dominion Government for doing as they had done. The articles supplied could probably have been furnished by some other firms, and he had mentioned the case only to show that the Dominion Government patronised their friends when an opportunity occurred.

PAP.

THE OPPOSITION GET THE TABLES RATHER TURNED UPON THEM.

The next subject of general discussion was that of newspaper patronage. Several members of the Opposition criticised the amount expended under this head by the Government.

Mr. Ballantyne thought it was a very small thing to protest against supplying newspapers to the public institutions of the Province.

Mr. Clancy again took exception to advertising in the small newspapers of the Province for supplies, arguing that it was a waste of public funds.

Mr. Balfour told the member for Kent to consider the patronage given local papers by the Ottawa Government. He could give the hon. gentleman a few instances, the Auditor-General's reports extending to fourteen pages, telling the tale of the number of papers existing on Government paper. If he (Mr. Balfour) had any fault to find with the Local Government, it was that they did not patronise their own papers enough. Mr. Balfour read a list of papers on the subscription list of the Federal Government, as also the amount they received for advertisements during the last year. The reading of the Auditor-General's report was not very palatable to the Opposition.

Mr. Meredith wanted to know how much THE GLOBE got.

The member for Essex replied by saying that it got very little, and would get nothing at all if the Government could get along without it. (Cheers.) It was too good a paper to be entirely ignored though, even on the subscription list at Ottawa.

Mr. Clancey again good-humoredly replied, but he failed to break the force of the argument of Mr. Balfour.

Mr. Creighton blamed the Government for not giving a detailed account of the amounts received by each newspaper in the Province.

Then the committee rose and reported progress, having passed the estimates for maintenance of four or five of the public institutions of the Province.

NEW COUNTIES.

MR. GUTHRIE CONDEMNS THE GOVERNMENT BILL.

Mr. Hardy then moved the second reading of his bill respecting the formation of new counties. The object of the bill, he explained, is to enable municipalities to arrive at some conclusion whereby new territories will be set apart without producing conflicting interests. The principle under-

lying the bill is that the majority of the municipalities shall not be coerced to form new counties, it being stipulated that the population of no old county shall be reduced by the organisation of new counties below 40,000. Provision is also made that larger municipalities shall not coerce weaker municipalities through the petitions. It is provided that a royal commission shall sit to consider the petitions, after which a vote shall be taken in the territory set apart which, if found to be in the affirmative, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may issue his proclamation organising the new county.

Mr. Guthrie objected to certain aspects of the bill. He condemned the proposition to force a union upon a minority, and defied Mr. Hardy or any other member to point to a case in which it had been attempted to coerce a few townships into joining a new county. No municipality should, he contended, be taken out of its own county on account of the vote of any other municipality or group of municipalities. Such a practice was entirely opposed to the practice of the House hitherto, and would work great injustice. The principle of the bill would go towards giving towns ambitious to become county towns the power of coercing municipalities to form new counties. Mount Forest, for example, by its solid vote would succeed in forming a new county from Grey and Wellington, although such formation would not have the sanction of the municipalities. Rural municipalities should not be taken out of their old boundaries without their own consent. He did not believe that such consent ever should be granted by a bare majority, but that at least a two-thirds majority should be granted, as was required in the case of bonusing manufacturers. He objected to granting Parliamentary powers to a commission; also to the use of petitions in the manner proposed. Anybody could be induced to sign a petition. He considered the bill as being unsound in principle, and hoped the Government would be induced to withdraw it after discussion.

Mr. Gibson (Huron) did not think that he would be acting true to the interests of his constituents if he did not vote against the bill; the hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands. The agitation for new counties was carried on by a few ambitious men and office-seekers in the towns anxious to become county seats. The farmers in his township did not wish to go a county town where they did not want to go. Listowel wants to become a county town, but they can go down to Stratford in an hour and a quarter, all showing that the agitation is absurd. The speaker thought that at least three-fourths of the voters should declare for a new county before effect should be given to it by law.

Mr. Allan (Wellington) explained the movement in his county for erecting an additional county. The townships in his riding and in the neighboring county are not in sympathy with the efforts made to form a new county. If he represented the feelings of his constituency he could not but say that all the municipalities were opposed to the bill. In justice to his constituency he would vote against the bill.

Mr. Ballantyne maintained that majorities for the erection of new counties could be obtained in a most objectionable manner under the provisions of the bill. In his county every resident was within a reasonable distance from the county town. He could not vote for the bill, even if his vote should defeat the Government.

The voice of George Hess was at this stage heard for the first time this session in support of the bill. He eulogised Listowel and gave a dig or two to Mr. Gibson, of Huron, and Mr. Allan for opposing the bill.

When Mr. Hess concluded Mr. Phelps rose above the form of Mr. Gibson, the latter having to give way after asking Mr. Hess a question, which was answered satisfactorily.

Mr. Phelps wanted a two-thirds vote to create new counties, and would oppose the bill because its provisions were against the interests of rural municipalities.

Mr. Ross (Middlesex) moved the adjournment of the debate at 11.10 p. m.

THE FACTORIES ACT.

CULLINGS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE INSPECTORS.

The reports of the inspectors of factories for the year ending December 31, 1888, has been distributed amongst the members. The following are extracts from the report of Mr. Robert Barber, inspector of the western districts. He entered upon his duties as inspector for the western district early in July, 1887. The said district comprises as follows:—The City of Toronto, west of the centre of Yonge street, and the Counties of Brant, Bruce, Elgin, Essex, Haldimand, Halton, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Lincoln,

Middlesex, Norfolk, Oxford, Perth, Waterloo, Welland, Wellington and Wentworth. As to safety the inspector says:—"In considering the question of safety, I frequently found it necessary to order that better protection be afforded to employees. I have given careful attention to condition of machinery, belting, gearing, shafting dangerous from its position, large belt holes, open stairways, landings not railed, steps loose or badly worn or with nailheads projecting, open raceways and flumes, open vats, ladders or passage ways between buildings, elevators often without safety-catches or devices for protecting open hatches. I have paid particular attention to the chances of escape, in case of fire or panic, of those at work above the second storey, and to the safe or unsafe condition generally of buildings in use as factories." Under accidents Mr. Barber states:—"I have learned of fifty accidents that have occurred in my district during the year; only five of which, however, were reported to me. This is owing to the fact that section 21 provides that factories in which neither children nor young girls are employed are not compelled to report such occurrences. Thirteen of these accidents happened in Toronto. I append a list of those reported to me, and also a list showing the nature of the more serious ones, and the class of factory in which accidents happened. It is gratifying to note that only two accidents are known to have happened to females, of whom there are employed in my district no less than 5,814. Doubtless some accidents of a reportable nature have happened in my district since my last inspection. Allowing that there may have been ten such (a large estimate), the total number of accidents will not exceed 60, amongst a total number of 26,000 persons employed in factories coming under the operation of the Act, or one accident to every 434 persons. Certainly not a large proportion in twelve months. The fact speaks well for the employers, who have so largely adopted means for the prevention of accidents, and also for the employees, whose intelligence and caution have saved them from injury."

The number of employees of the district is given as follows:—Males between 12 and 14 years, 249; over 14 years, 19,889; females between 14 and 18 years, 1,538; over 18 years, 4,226; total, 25,952.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

ITEMS FROM THE HOUSE, THE LOBBIES AND DEPARTMENTS.

The Private Bills and the Municipal Committees met in the morning and succeeded in despatching a large amount of the work before them. In the Private Bills Committee the following bills were passed with slight amendments:—

An Act respecting St. James' church, Toronto.

An Act respecting Light, Water & Power Co., of Sault Ste. Marie.

An Act respecting the St. Catharines waterworks.

An Act respecting the Town of Cobourg.

In the Municipal Committee Mr. Dack's bill, providing for the widening, deepening and straightening of streams, so as to reduce the danger to lands and highways from floods, was passed. Mr. Balfour's amendment to the Municipal Act was also passed. It declares that no mark, sign or word made on a ballot by a returning officer shall void such a ballot. The committee passed judgment on Mr. Cruess' bill, amending it by saying that the fact of 300 voters being in a polling division shall not void the election.

AID TO RAILWAYS.

Mr. Guthrie's amendment to the Municipal Act is to enable municipalities, if they see fit, to aid railways, to which the Railway Act of Canada applies.

SPARK ARRESTERS.

The chief clause in the Attorney-General's bill respecting threshing machines is as follows:—It shall be the duty of every manufacturer of steam threshing engines to provide each engine with an efficient spark arrester before selling or disposing of the same, and no person shall use or run any steam threshing engine unless it is provided with such spark arrester, and it shall be the duty of the owner, or other person using or running the engine, to keep the spark arrester at all times when the engine is in use in proper working order. One-half the fine imposed for violation of the law shall belong to the informer and the other half to the municipality where the offence is tried.

MASTER AND SERVANT.

Mr. Mowat has introduced a bill to remove all doubts as to the powers of police magistrates in enforcing the payment of wages under the Act respecting master and servant. It provides that where proceedings under the Act are taken before a police magistrate, and payment of wages is ordered by him to be made by the employer