

THE LEGISLATURE.

THE BUSINESS OF THE SESSION CONCLUDED.

Mr. Balfour's Election Law Amendment—The Opposition Have a Secret Ballot—Amendments in Concurrency—Tenders for Supplies—Bills Passed—Uniform Matriculation Examinations—Supplementary Estimates—Closing Scenes.

MARCH 21, 1889.

The Chamber looked very serene this morning when the doors were opened. The railway resolutions had joined the French school question and were a thing of the past. Before half an hour had elapsed, however, the House was again plunged into warm discussion. This time it was caused by an amendment proposed by Mr. A. F. Wood (Hastings) to the motion to read a third time Mr. Balfour's bill to amend the Ontario Election Act. The motion was to the effect that the House should go into committee on the bill and amend it by making the ballot secret at elections for the Legislature. The motion brought up the Attorney-General and Messrs. Hardy and Fraser, on the Government side of the House, and Messrs. Creighton, Hudson, Willoughby, Whitney and others for the Opposition. The contention by the Government side of the House was that the ballot is already secret for all practical purposes, and that only through some misdemeanor or in case of a legal and official scrutiny can the manner of voting of particular persons be traced. Various charges of fraud and ill-doing in respect to ballot papers were hurled at the Government on apparently trivial grounds, and one or two extreme remarks from Mr. Willoughby to that effect caused Mr. Hardy, in rebutting them, to remind that gentleman that he had not yet denied, in the House at any rate, the statement made in the House to the effect that he (Mr. Willoughby) had been guilty of standing outside a polling booth and bringing a spy-glass to bear upon it in order to detect the way in which his constituents cast their votes. As soon as Mr. Hardy had taken his seat Mr. Willoughby jumped up as if he had been shot and denied at last the allegation made, asserting that there was not a word of truth in it.

Another point made by the members of the Government in refusing the amendment offered by Mr. Wood was that it was impossible to discuss so important an affair in the dying hours of the session, and that Mr. Wood, if he had intended the amendment for any other purpose than to bring about a rather acrimonious discussion and to enable false charges of fraud and wrongdoing to be hurled at the Government, would have introduced it earlier in the session, or would have brought in some time before this a bill to the same effect. Mr. Wood's reply was that he had had the amendment waiting for some ten days, but had not had a chance to move it. He thought there was ample time. "Yeas" and "nays" were demanded, and the vote resulted as follows. Mr. Garson being the only Government supporter to join the Opposition:—

YEAS.—Blyth, Clancy, Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Craig, Creighton, Cruess, Fell, French, Garson, Hammell, Hudson, Ingram, Kerns, Lees, Martar, Meacham, Metcalfe, Miller, Monk, Morgan, Gstrom, Preston, Borke, Smith (Frontenac), Stewart, Tooley, Whitney, Willoughby, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—30.

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

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Murray arose to a question of privilege during the morning session. He said he was incorrectly reported in The Toronto Empire. He read the report, and continued that what he did say was that he was sorry to see such an exodus of people from the Province, which he attributed to some extent to the dissatisfaction of the trade policy, and the duty of the Government was to remove all cause of complaint and to encourage the development of the newer portions of the Province in particular by assisting in the construction of colonisation railways. He gave the Americans credit for their enterprise in constructing railways and for encouraging immigration. He thought there was some sentiment in favor of Annexation, and that if, in advocating a change of the trade policy, and a renewed effort to construct railways to keep our people in the country would make him an Annexationist, then he was one. He admitted a great deal had been done already in the construction of railways, and spoke of the great advantage the Canadian Pacific railway was to the northern portion of the Province. The hon. the leader of the Opposition, in replying to his remark, misjudged him and placed him in a felon's position, which he was sure the hon. gentleman did not desire to do. He would be the last man who would willingly say anything that might be prejudicial to his native country.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time and passed without any discussion:—To amend the Act of Contracts for Insurance; the Muni-

cipal Amendment Act; Respecting aid to railroads.

CHARGE AGAINST AN OFFICIAL.

When the House again was going into supply Mr. Creighton, in the absence of Mr. Meredith, called the attention of the Attorney-General to the case of S. M. Davis, of Goderich, who in the year 1887 was assaulted by Mr. McDonald, the Deputy Clerk of the Crown for the County of Huron. Mr. Creighton said that it was alleged Davis was waylaid after a political dispute at night by Mr. McDonald, and sustained such injuries that he will be a cripple for life. He recovered \$100 damages in a civil suit, but that was not sufficient to recoup him for the injuries sustained. The Attorney-General replied that the evidence brought forth at the trial went to show that Davis was himself to blame, that he was not sober at the time, and that it did not appear that his injuries were altogether due to the assault.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into supply, and passed the supplementary estimates after a few observations by members of the Opposition. The chief items are as follows:—

Further vote Administration of Justice, Algoma.....	\$ 500 00
Further vote for Administration of Justice, Detroit River.....	1,000 00
Salary of Registrar of Deeds and Master of Titles, Manitoulin.....	500 00
Salary of Clerk of District Court and Surrogate Court, Manitoulin Island	250 00
Salary of County Attorney and Clerk of the Peace, Parry Sound.....	400 00
Salary of Sheriffs of Parry Sound and Muskoka, \$100 in addition to the \$400 already voted.....	200 00
Salary of Magistrate at Sudbury voted by mistake at \$1,200 instead of \$1,400 as heretofore.....	200 00
Addition to the salary of the Master in Ordinary.....	200 00
Addition to salary of Clerk of Process and Heir and Devisee Commission.....	200 00
Additional vote for Local Masters of Titles in outlying Districts.....	1,000 00
High school, Sault Ste. Marie.....	1,000 00
Assistant in dairy department, Guelph College.....	450 00
Increase in salary of professor of dairying, Guelph College.....	250 00
Special grant to Dairymen's Associations, east and west, for this year only.....	1,000 00
Normal School, Ottawa, water closets for front building.....	2,000 00
Registry office and lot at Gore Bay..	2,000 00
Addition to court room, Parry Sound.	6,000 00
Fences round yards and furniture, Court room, North Bay.....	2,500 00
Addition to lock-up at Sudbury and fencing.....	1,000 00
For addition to lock-up at Bracebridge.....	600 00
Towards expenses of meeting of American Science Association in Ontario in 1889.....	2,500 00
Towards expenses of meeting of American Association of Mining Engineers.....	1,000 00
Municipal Commission, further vote to close.....	750 00
Balance Cincinnati exhibit.....	700 00
For printing the unrepealed general Acts not contained in Revised Statutes.....	1,000 00
Special expenses re diphtheria epidemic in Parry Sound and Nipissing Districts.....	1,200 00
Retiring allowance to Inspector of Registry Offices.....	1,500 00
To defray expenses of legislation, public institutions maintenance and for salaries of the officers of the Government and Civil Service for the month of January, 1890.....	80,000 00

IN CONCURRENCE.

In the course of concurrence, Mr. Creighton moved an amendment as follows:—

"That the following words be added to the motion:—'But while willing to grant all necessary sums for the maintenance of our public institutions, this House is of opinion that the system heretofore pursued of purchasing large quantities of supplies for these institutions without public competition opens the way for gross favoritism and extravagance, is not in the public interest and ought to be discontinued.'"

Mr. Harcourt moved in amendment to the motion:—

"That all after the word 'that' in the resolution be struck out and the following inserted in lieu thereof:—'There be added to the original resolution these words, 'And, whilst concurring in such resolutions, this House desires to express its opinion, that in regard to the supplies for the institutions which cannot with advantage

be supplied by tender, the purchasing officers should insist that where wholesale quantities are purchased only current wholesale prices should be charged.'"

Mr. French took exception to the price paid for varnish by the bursar of the Kingston Insane Asylum, stating that it was too high. The Treasurer said that Mr. French never asked one single question regarding the matter of the bursar when he was examined by the Public Accounts Committee. It was unfair to bring it up at this time. It was shown by the evidence of the bursar that supplies were purchased at the lowest possible price. Mr. Metcalfe defended the bursar of Kingston Asylum, claiming that his salary should be raised. Mr. Hardy ridiculed the proposition of the Opposition, arguing that it was impossible to make it practical. Mr. Clancy said the proper course to pursue was to purchase all supplies for the institutions by tender. Mr. Harcourt wound up the debate. He took occasion to say that the members of the Opposition present at the Public Accounts Committee were thoroughly satisfied with the straightforward evidence given by the bursar of the Kingston Asylum. The House then divided, the amendment being carried on the following division:—

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

NAYS.—Blyth, Clancy, Clarke, H. E. (Toronto), Craig, Creighton, Cruess, Fell, French, Hammell, Hudson, Ingram, Kerns, Lees, Martar, Meacham, Metcalfe, Monk, Morgan, Gstrom, Preston, Borke, Smith (Frontenac), Stewart, Tooley, Whitney, Willoughby, Wood (Hastings), Wylie—23.

EVENING SESSION.

THE HOUSE WINDS UP THE BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

There were a few finishing touches required to put the legislation of the session into a harmonious shape, and that was done by the members assembling at the usual hour after adjournment. There was no disposition, however, to exhibit that careworn and anxious look which could be seen on the faces of the legislators in the middle of the session. In fact the House resolved itself into the customary and time-honored committee on "paper throwing." Some members, noticeably Hon. Mr. Fraser, betook themselves at an early hour to the safe retreat which back benches grant, while others, perpetually pelted beyond endurance, withdrew from the showers of bills and pamphlets. The Minister of Agriculture retreated after receiving a charge that put his hat into a shape a Mr. Speaker's. Others did likewise.

UNIFORM MATRICULATION EXAMINATIONS.

The fray ceased for a while to give place to an applause that lasted long, when Mr. Metcalfe, after a couple of bills were disposed of, rose to move a motion. It looked for some time as if the member for Kingston would not be allowed to give it expression. But at last he got a hearing and he moved the following motion:—Order of the House for a return of copies of all correspondence between the authorities of the University of Toronto and the authorities of any other university or universities in Ontario, relating to uniform matriculation examinations and a uniform scale of fees.

The Minister of Education said that the motion was of great importance, it being desirable that there should be a uniform matriculation examination for all the universities of the Province. He doubted, however, whether the universities would be willing, even if they could agree on a common basis, to give up their privileges in these respects. He would give all information as to the steps taken to bring about this desirable end. The order was then granted.

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Then John Blyth rose and received a bundle of bills on the back of the head which almost disturbed his gravity, the applause at the same time indicating how popular a member becomes at the close of the session. This does not mean that Mr. Blyth is not always popular; but last night he was received with a lasting ovation. He spoke in his own racy style, but, notwithstanding his strong voice, he could not be heard. He moved the following motion:—

Order of the House for a return showing the amounts due to the Land Improvement Fund arising from the sales of Grammar school lands in the Township of Proton up to the 30th day of October, 1888, such return to include all collections up to 1st July, 1887.

The motion was granted.

CLOSING SCENES.

The Attorney-General then announced that the House would be prorogued on Saturday and moved the adjournment of the House until three o'clock on that day. Thereupon the members rose and sang the National Anthem loyally, closing with three cheers and a tiger. The scene then changed, as if by magic, resembling the stern realities of the battlefield. The pent-up feelings of the members found wild expression in the twinkling of an eye, and it did not take many minutes for the cushions to do duty in possibly the wildest and most amusing scene that ever took place at the closing of the Legislature. The wreck was as terrible as the combatants were persistent and courageous. The poor old clock was the first to go, then the lamps, after which hon. gentlemen came to close quarters, the assault being protracted and determined. The galleries were crowded and enjoyed, presumably, the scene more than many of them did in listening to long speeches. Farewell, gentlemen, you fought nobly and worthy of British representatives.