

have a man who would do it. (Opposition applause.) He would like to see the matter settled by having a man appointed who would take in the whole district.

Mr. Creighton said the Attorney-General had made a very weak defence of the infringement

of the statute of which the Government had been guilty.

The amendment was then put and voted on, with the following result:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Blyth, Clancy, H. E. Clarke (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.—Messrs. Allan, Armstrong, Awrey, Balfour, Ballantyne, Bishop, Blezard, Bronson, Caldwell, Clarke (Wellington), Connee, Dack, Dance, Davis, Drury, Dryden, Evanturel, Ferguson, Field, Fraser, Freeman, Garson, Gibson (Hamilton), Gibson (Huron), Gilmour, Gould, Graham, Guthrie, Harcourt, Hardy, Leys, Lyon, McKay, McLaughlin, McMahon, Mack, Mackenzie, Master, Mowat, Murray, O'Connor, Pacaud, Phelps, Rayside, Robillard, Ross (Huron), Ross (Middlesex), Smith (York), Snider, Sprague, Stratton, Waters, Wood (Brant)—53.

THE TREASURER'S EXPLANATION.

The House then resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. Harcourt in the chair. The following couple of hours proved very interesting.

The hon. Treasurer rose and proceeded to make a detailed explanation as to the point raised in the House the other day by Mr. Creighton in connection with the alleged discrepancy in the open accounts between the public accounts of 1887 and those of 1888. Mr. Ross was unable to explain the matter off-hand, but stated that it was in connection with the corrections made of the errors discovered and brought before the House in 1887, and he promised a fuller explanation later. Since then The Empire has had a number of articles on the subject, thoroughly denouncing the Treasurer and his system of bookkeeping. Mr. Ross had the worst of these in his hand, and quoted from them a good many paragraphs and sentences, which he characterised as altogether wrong and untrue, no matter whether written in an editorial chair or made in Mr. Creighton's capacity as a member of the House. The Treasurer defended the Auditor because that official was unable to be present himself, and because he felt that he could safely do so. He showed that it was Mr. Creighton, not he himself, who had blundered, and though, as he pointed out, he was not responsible to the House for the accuracy of the public accounts—the Auditor was that—yet he was willing to assume that responsibility, and he challenged Mr. Creighton or anybody else to point to half a dozen blunders in the half-dozen years during which he had been Treasurer. In the course of his remarks he suggested that some of the bitterness with which The Empire attacked him might be due to his (the speaker's) action in removing two of Mr. Creighton's personal friends from positions in the Treasury Department.

Mr. Creighton replied very warmly. He said there was not a word of truth in this suggestion of Mr. Ross. He had had very little to say to the late Assistant Treasurer—hardly spoke more than half a dozen words to him during a year. Neither was there anything in the insinuation that the Opposition were annoyed because they could no longer get information from the Treasury Department. He had never got any information from Mr. Harris that could be used against the Government, nor had he attempted to do so.

A curious point of order arose from a misquotation by Mr. Creighton of some words used by Mr. Ross. Mr. Ross explained what they were. The words themselves had been uttered, but used in an entirely different connection from that in which Mr. Creighton placed them.

Mr. Creighton said he would trust to his own recollection of what Mr. Ross said.

Mr. Ross protested against this.

Mr. Meredith supported Mr. Creighton.

Mr. Ross still maintained his right to be the best judge of what he had said.

Mr. Hardy supported Mr. Ross in this idea.

Finally the Chairman was appealed to. Mr. Harcourt pointed out that it was certainly the custom of the House, when one member was criticising the remarks of another and the member criticised denied that he was correctly quoted or represented, to accept the explanation of the member, whose words had been quoted, as to what he had said or meant. "I rule," said Mr. Harcourt, "that the hon. member must unqualifiedly accept the explanation of the hon. member whose remarks he was criticising."

Mr. Meredith seemed astonished at the ruling, which, however, was warmly cheered by the House, and suggested that the judgment of the Speaker or the leader of the House should be appealed to on the point, it was so important.

The case was put to Mr. Meredith by Mr. Ross as to whether he would not consider himself the best judge of what he had himself said on a given occasion, and Mr. Meredith said he would not, if the recollections of others were to the contrary, a remark which the House took sceptically.

There was some further discussion, and Mr. Meredith still appealed to the Attorney-General as leader of the House to pronounce on the subject. He would be content to accept his verdict.

Just then Mr. Fraser rose with a copy of "Bourinot's Parliamentary Practice" in his hand, and read from it the paragraph under the heading of "calling in question a member's word," which included the sentence:—"The words which he states himself to have used are to be considered the words actually spoken."

This settled the point, though the discussion was continued a little longer.

The Attorney-General said, in consequence of Mr. Meredith's direct appeal to him, that there seemed but one way of reading this sentence.

Then the discussion of the main subject was resumed and kept up until after midnight. Mr. Meredith said the Treasurer was discourteous generally in his treatment of the Opposition. That was why he was assailed, not for any personal grounds.

Mr. H. E. Clarke talked for a few minutes on the annuity question, on which he admitted the difference of opinion that existed among members on his own side of the House.

charges should be made as were being continually published in The Empire by a member of the House, who dare not make them in the same manner, at least on the floor of the House.

Mr. Creighton jumped up to declare that he was prepared to prove everything said in The Empire, and to make on the floor of the House, as he insisted he had made, every charge made in the journal he managed.

Mr. Clancy continued the discussion for some minutes, and then Mr. Ross replied to some of the criticisms of his explanation.

Then Mr. Whitney made an explanation of the sense in which he had used the remark, that the Opposition had not the advantage of a "conduit pipe laid on from the Treasury Department." He had not used them in any other than an jocular sense, and he thought the House had so understood the point at the time.

Then at ten minutes after midnight the House adjourned.