

go far to do away with the agitation for election of officials.

Mr. Sol White did not agree with the Commissioner of Public Works that the people of the United States would be willing to abolish the elective system. Still he hoped the hon. member for Elgin would withdraw his motion and bring it in at another time, when it might receive the support of the Government.

Mr. Awrey's Speech.

Mr. Awrey made a speech that shook the House into lively interest. He first commended the member for North Essex on the candor with which he acknowledged his views. He had the courage of his convictions. "Those views may be wrong," he was going on to say, when the Commissioner of Crown Lands interjected, "it is wrong." Mr. Awrey then read from



The Detroit Sunday Sun a report of a speech made by Mr. White in which he declared his sympathy with annexation, and that the time is coming when the United States and Canada will be one grand country. Also he read from a Toledo paper a report of a speech by Hon. Solomon White which was headed "Annexation of Canada." The member for South Wentworth has a quietly humorous way of roasting a member that is not excelled in the House. To-day the members were amused by his treatment of Mr. White, and there was repeated laughter and applause. Having finished his good-humored chaffing of the member for North Essex, Mr. Awrey proceeded to deal with the subject of the resolution in a broad and practical way. He thought it was time the House emphatically declared against the introduction of the American system. It would be most unfortunate if there were hot political contests for the election of the various officers. With respect to the suggestion by the member for London of the election by County Councils, he thought it must be acknowledged that the election would still be with the politicians. The result would be that municipal elections would be saturated with politics. He did not think the question had been largely considered by the people of the Province, and he did not think they wanted any change.

Mr. Whitney spoke against the resolution. He is one of the readiest speakers among Mr. Meredith's supporters and one



of the most popular members on the Opposition benches. He opposed the elective system, but he did not think the Commissioner of Public Works in his observations was quite fair to the judiciary of the United States. He agreed with the Commissioner that it would be pernicious with regard to minor officials. It was not clear that the fact of bailiffs, county Crown attorneys and other officials being appointed lifted them from active party politics. He believed, with the hon. member for North Middlesex, that the people could be trusted to elect the officials, but the system meant that the appointment would come under the party caucus. He moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. White, replying to Mr. Awrey, said he was not responsible for what had appeared in The Sunday Sun, but he would say that he



had never uttered the words the hon. member had read to the House. He was not a revolutionist; he was a loyal subject of the country. But he would say in the House as he had said elsewhere that he preferred political union on fair terms rather than the policy of the party opposite. He did not know who had coached the hon. gentleman, but the statements he had read were false. He denied that he had ever said a word against the interest of Canada.

there were interviews and newspaper articles which Mr. White had not questioned, and in which he had plainly declared for annexation.

A Point of Order.

Mr. Meredith rose to a point of order, taking the ground that as Mr. White had made a denial it was not in order for a member to call that denial in question. There was a twenty-minute discussion of a general character on this point. Bourinot was consulted, and his ruling, according as it was read, was held to uphold both the contentions of the Opposition leader and of the Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. Fraser and Hon. Mr. Hardy, who opposed him. Mr. Meredith's point was that, as the member for North Essex had denied that he had ever used such language as had been attributed to him, it was not in order for a member to repeat the charge or say anything that called in question his denial; that the denial must remain unquestioned unless in a case where the charges denied were to be pressed to an investigation. The Premier and Messrs. Fraser and Hardy argued that this would be an absurd rule; that it was not Parliamentary practice. If a member charged another member with having said something in the House, he must take the statement of that member that he had not made such a statement. But this was an entirely different matter.

The discussion was a lively bit of argument. Mr. Awrey made a feint of going on with his speech, but Mr. Meredith pressed the point of order. The Speaker reserved his decision. Mr. Awrey then read out to Mr. White the names of several American newspapers which contained reports of speeches and interviews with him, and intimated that the member for North Essex might at another time reply to them.

The debate on the resolution of Mr. McColl was continued in short speeches by Messrs. Metcalfe, Willoughby, A. F. Campbell, Godwin and Rayside, and was concluded by Mr. McColl, who withdrew it, promising its reintroduction next session.

Closing the Week.

By consent the private bills were then taken up, the object being to advance a stage those concerning which there was no discussion, thus avoiding the disadvantage of delay. A number were passed in committee of the whole and others were read the second time. The House continued to sit after 6 o'clock in order to close up the work for the week. Mr. Sol White's bill to encourage the breeding of trotting horses was read the second time and referred to a special committee for consideration. Mr. Clancy desired to move the second reading of his bill to amend the Municipal Act, but as some clauses in it were declared by Mr. Hardy to be obnoxious and such as should not be consented to, he was constrained to allow the postponement. Mr. Awrey wanted to have his bill to amend the Assessment Act read the second time, but as the objection was taken that the bill was not printed, he was unable to go on. Mr. Bishop's resolution calling for papers relating to the investigation into the affairs of the Lion Provident Life & Live Stock Association was moved and agreed to, Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) stating that the fact that the person who carried on the business had left the country without waiting for the conclusion of the proceedings was sufficient indication that the business was a fraudulent one.

Before adjournment Mr. Meredith called attention to a fine legal point involving a difficulty which he believed should be met by legislation. It related to the business tax. He said that it was declared in the law that the business tax might be substituted in the case of mercantile establishments for the personal property tax. But in the case of a merchant whose debts equalled the value of his personal property, here was under the old law no

tax whatever, consequently the business tax could not be substituted in his case—there was nothing to substitute it for. He also said that in the case of the law authorising municipalities to issue debentures for 30 years to pay for certain classes of improvements harbor works had been omitted. These should be added to the list and that at once, otherwise in some cases contemplated works could not be gone on with this season. These matters, he said, had been brought to his attention by Mr. Moberly of Collingwood.

In agreeing to the adjournment the Attorney-General said that it was the last Friday evening this session on which the Government would consent to the evening session being dispensed with, and he asked the members to make arrangements to remain on Friday evenings for the rest of the session.

The House adjourned about 6.30.