

meet those expenses if the Government had not done so. Mr. Meredith said it was an expensive Government. He said the Minister of Agriculture should have another department amalgamated with his. That had been tried in the case of Mr. Dryden's predecessor, Mr. Drury, but although Mr. Drury was a very able man the double department had prevented him from achieving what Mr. Dryden had been able to do by giving his undivided attention to the duties of the office. Then his hon. friend had suggested that the Minister of Education should be abolished, and a Superintendent of Education appointed instead. Whatever good or evil this might result in it certainly would not be an economy, for a Superintendent would have to be paid just as a Minister was. They had a Superintendent before they had a Minister and there was no economy. The late Dr. Ryerson had himself recommended the appointment of a Minister of Education who should be responsible to the people. Mr. Meredith did not, he presumed, mean to give the Superintendent of Education power to dispose of all matters relating to education without responsibility to anyone. There must be responsibility to somebody, whether Minister or Superintendent. With regard to the politics which were said to be mixed up with the department, his hon. friends opposite were mainly responsible for the idea. They had been constantly asserting it. The present Minister of Education had been very careful to avoid anything of the kind. Mr. Meredith had said that under the old system we had none of these burning questions of Separate Schools or other matters mixed up with the department. Of course this was wrong, as those who remembered or had read of those times would easily perceive. Those questions were much more exciting in those days than they are now, and political charges were then preferred continually against the Superintendent.

Mr. Meredith denied that he had raised the no-Popery cry. Well, he had not used exactly that expression, but certainly that was the effect of his utterances. He was glad, however, to hear the expressions that had fallen from the hon. gentleman, and would have liked to hear more of them. As to Mr. Conmee's notice of motion regarding a bill to give the ballot to Separate School electors, he did not see how this justified the action of Mr. Meredith and his friends in trying to force the ballot on them a year or two ago. It was at the time optional with Public Schools, and the bill then introduced proposed to make it compulsory with both Public and Separate School supporters. He had been himself in favor of the use of the ballot at all these elections, but the only movement in its favor was on the part of a small minority in Toronto. He had then expressed the opinion that ultimately the ballot would be used for Separate Schools with the assent of Roman Catholics themselves. He thought it a good principle. But it was one thing to be willing to accept it themselves and another thing to be willing to accept it from those who were attacking them and forcing it upon them. He thought it far better that they should wait a while until public opinion was ripe for the change. Meantime there had been no grievance. There were very few contests at all. There being no grievance and no demand for it on the part of those interested, he thought then the time had not come. His hon. friend thought it had, and was prepared to force the ballot on the Separate School electors. He had nothing more to say, except to add the remark that while the speech of his hon. friend had been delivered with great force, it was plainly to be seen that he had no sort of case against the Government.

MR. CONMEE AND MR. MEREDITH.

Mr. Conmee rose to a question of privilege. He claimed he had been misrepresented by Mr. Meredith. He had never said prohibition was a farce. He had simply argued that prohibition was only a farce when it was left to be carried out by officers who were elected, and were not necessarily in favor of the law. Everybody else had understood him, he thought. Mr. Meredith, said Mr. Conmee, was apparently trying to make a little capital by misrepresenting what he had said. That, he thought, was most unmanly. But Mr. Meredith was counting without his host. He (Mr. Conmee) had long been a prohibitionist. (Applause.) It was to be noticed, however, that Mr. Meredith had not taken advantage of the opportunity to say whether or not he was a prohibitionist.

MR. MARTER AND MR. CONMEE.

Mr. Marter rose for a moment to say, with regard to Mr. Conmee's remarks regarding him earlier in the afternoon, that if Mr. Conmee would mention any specific

charge made by him he would be only too glad to have the opportunity of substantiating it on the floor of the House. Mr. Conmee said he would give him the opportunity shortly.

The address in reply was then carried unanimously.

Mr. Meredith asked that returns might be hurried up, and Mr. Gibson promised everything possible should be done.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock until to-morrow afternoon.