

under the British system. He thought the case of the leader of the Opposition not proved.

### THE DEBATE CLOSED.

Mr. Meredith then spoke. The tactics of the gentlemen were not fair. He could have brought in his resolution on a motion to go into supply, and then no evasion or amendment would have been possible. But he had preferred to move it in this way, and this trick had been played on him. The Attorney-General had discussed the question fairly from his point of view, but the moving of the amendment was not fair. Why not vote squarely, and have the courage to say yes or no? He was ready to vote for no compensation at all, and would at a later stage test the honesty of the gentlemen opposite. Mr. Meredith then claimed that the existence of responsible government under the British system would obviate the evils mentioned by Mr. Hardy, and reiterated his declaration that the Government would find that the Opposition could play at the game they had started.

Sir Oliver Mowat expressed himself surprised at Mr. Meredith's wrath. He thought the principle of Mr. O'Connor's amendment reasonable, and would, of the two, prefer it to Mr. Meredith's suggestion. But Mr. Meredith was wrong in assuming that there had been any arrangement to avoid a vote. The Government were prepared to vote upon the question, and his own opinion was that both the amendments should be withdrawn, and the vote taken on the original resolution.

Mr. Meredith—We are prepared to do that.

Sir Oliver Mowat continued that he did not think it wise to pass Mr. Meredith's resolution, which, in any case, should be left to the new House. He declared that he had had no intention of charging the whole American people as a people with the corruption into which their Legislatures seemed, from the testimony he had read, to have fallen. As for the constitutional question, he would, without trying to dogmatize, like to remark that his impression was that the Province did not possess the power to make the change. Clauses 85 and 86, to which Mr. Meredith referred, were expressed very absolutely, with no restriction or qualification; while the immediately preceding clauses, 83 and 84, enacting certain laws which were to be in Ontario, expressly stated that they were to exist until the Legislature declared otherwise. Why were the qualifications put in the one case and not in the other? The case against the Province's power of interference was strong.

Mr. Meredith briefly rejoined that the same argument would apply to section 7, which enacted in a very absolute manner that the Legislature should consist of 82 members; yet that had been changed. The Provinces were able to create or do away with their second chamber, and make other constitutional changes. And as for the Attorney-General's contention that this was not a constitutional matter at all,

clauses 85 and 86 were under the head of "constitution" in the act.

Mr. Guthrie moved the adjournment of the debate, and the House rose soon after 11 o'clock.