

from the start. These circumstances, no contended, apart from the constitutional aspect, on which he hoped to be able to say something presently, were such, speaking of them with all fairness, and without urging anything acrimonious, or wishing to say anything offensive, that if the position now existing in the Province were reversed, and there were a Protestant minority instead of a Roman Catholic minority, and a Roman Catholic majority instead of a Protestant majority, then the Protestant minority would, as the Roman Catholic minority has done under existing circumstances, resent the proposition to force the ballot on the Separate Schools. It was not concealed or hidden—it was not sought to be hidden in any way— that there is a considerable portion of the community that would like to see the system of Separate Schools abolished. All their programmes and platforms looked to that end. He was satisfied that if the situation were as he had suggested, and the religious minority were composed of Protestants instead of Roman Catholics, and they saw, day after day, a large section of those who composed the majority of the people, sometimes in their newspapers, sometimes in public, always with the same motive and the same intent, saying in effect: "We propose to do away with the Separate Schools system which you enjoy, and to make you attend the Public Schools, the schools which are dominated by the Roman Catholic majority"; and suppose, further, that, while this portion of the Roman Catholic majority were continually disseminating these views, they said the ballot system must be adopted by the Protestant minority, whether they wished it or not, he asked anybody who wished to deal with this question apart from partisanship if the supposed Protestant minority would not be fairly stating their opinion when they said: "If it be your desire to abolish Separate Schools, if this is what you desire to accomplish, then we have very good reason to fear that what you propose to offer us as a gift and a benefit is really intended to be an injury to the Separate School system, and therefore we are determined to resist it as far as we are allowed by the constitution." Would not that, he asked, be beyond all question the position the Protestant minority would take? But if, in addition to all this, this portion of the Roman Catholic majority which he had suggested, besides advocating the abolition of the Separate School system, and declaring that the minority must use the ballot, accompanied their arguments by the assertion that the minority required to be freed from their ministers and clergy, that they could not elect their school trustees freely and fairly unless they had the ballot, would not the supposed Protestant minority resent the proposition that accompanied it? Would not the circumstance that the proposition was accompanied by such an offensive argument be sufficient to secure the rejection of the proposition? Apart altogether from the constitutional questions, he said, these two sets of circumstances alone afforded good and sufficient reason for the Roman Catholic minority of the Province having hitherto said in response to the proposition:—"If you are opposed to the existence of Separate Schools and want to impose the ballot you cannot intend to do it for the good of the system. It is not your purpose to perpetuate the Separate School system, but it is your purpose to destroy it. Part of the machinery with which you propose to do so is this ballot system. Whatever advantages you may see in the operation of the ballot, we have reason to apprehend and believe that the only motive you have at bottom is the destruction of the system." "These two sets of circumstances," said Mr. Fraser, "would be ample warrant for those of us who belong to the Roman Catholic minority to reply this way to those who are thrusting down our throats, whether we would or not, this ballot system when we are not asking for it, and there is no grievance in the matter." But when the constitutional question stood as it did the ground was perfectly clear and straight, and the minority were bound to resist this proposition to the end. He did not hesitate to say that the position had been somewhat changed by what had occurred, not only during the present session, but by what had occurred so long ago as the session of 1890. Before that time the voice of the minority was united on the subject, but in that session Mr. Clancy voted straight, without hesitancy, for a compulsory ballot. He did not want to be offensive. Mr. Clancy had a right to urge his views and adopt what course he saw fit. He (the speaker) had no more right to speak for others than had Mr. Clancy, except that he thought he (the speaker) represented the views of the minority. But in voting for the compulsory ballot Mr. Clancy had to some extent changed the situation. His action enabled many of the Protestant majority, who were to a large extent indifferent on the subject of Separate Schools—and he could quite understand their being so—to say that inasmuch as a Roman Catholic representative in the House had voted for the compulsory ballot, it could not be said

thereafter, was no feeling on the part of the minority in favor of election by ballot. But this session the vote of the member for North Essex had also been cast for the recent motion declaring that the ballot system should be applied to the School Board elections. And now there was the proposition of the hon. member for Algoma. This very much changed the situation. It was said there had grown up a sentiment among Roman Catholics in favor of the ballot. It would be news for him to learn that there is another Roman Catholic in the Province, save the hon. gentlemen he had mentioned (Mr. Clancy and Mr. White) who were in favor of the compulsory ballot. He thought he knew something about it. For twenty years he had moved among all classes of men and been a close observer of public affairs. From no source had he heard of such a desire save on the part of these two gentlemen. There was nothing, he said, to indicate that the Roman Catholics were in favor of the compulsory system. But there were doubtless a great many Roman Catholics who, having regard to the agitation going on and to the outcry raised and the irritation caused by the discussion of the question; having regard to the attacks made upon the Separate Schools, and the expressions used with reference to their clergy and hierarchy, and actuated by a desire to take out of the political arena a question calculated to create so much disturbance and difference of opinion, there was no doubt, he repeated, a certain section of the Roman Catholic minority who have felt they did not care whether the Legislature passed an optional ballot or not.

The last few sentences of Mr. Fraser had been uttered with some difficulty, and had been continually interrupted by a cough. His physical weakness was visible to all, and there was no surprise when, after struggling again for a moment, he said, "Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I shall not be able to proceed," and sank into his chair. It was only a quarter after 5, and the sympathy of the House was manifested in a unanimous suggestion to make it 6 o'clock, if Mr. Fraser could continue his speech after recess. Instead of doing this, however, other business was taken up, on the understanding the debate should proceed after recess if Mr. Fraser felt equal to it.

EXECUTIONS.

Mr. White moved the second reading of his new bill amending the act respecting executions. He explained that the list of exemptions in it was smaller than that in his former bill, which had been debated. Hon. Mr. Gibson declared that it was out of order, as embodying the principle of the bill already rejected earlier in the session. Mr. Meredith stood up for Mr. White, and the Speaker ruled that the bill was in order, as containing only a portion of the clauses of the old bill. Hon. Mr. Gibson then opposed the bill, holding that the sentiment of the country was against any further increase of exemptions. Mr. Balfour was inclined to favor the bill, thinking that the slighter extension of the bill would be a good thing. He thought the bill should go to the Legal Committee. Dr. Baxter opposed the bill. Dr. Barr supported it, and the Attorney-General was in favor of its going to the Legal Committee, on the understanding that the House should not be regarded as committing itself for the measure. The bill was, accordingly, read.

UNIVERSITY EXPENDITURES.

Government notices of motion came next, and Hon. Mr. Ross moved the ratification of the order in Council of April 11, 1894, whereby the payment out of the permanent fund of the University of Toronto was authorized for the equipment of the chemical laboratory (\$20,000), for the completion of the gymnasium building (\$8,000), and for glass and iron cases for the museum (\$12,000).

Mr. A. F. Wood called attention to the imperfect condition of the equipment of the Biological and Mineralogical Departments. He thought that these important departments should be aided.

Hon. Mr. Ross, in reply, pointed out that the Government was proceeding upon recommendation of the University authorities, who, while alive to the needs of the Biological and Mineralogical Departments, yet felt that these expenditures were matters of first urgency. He hoped that before long the work of the School of Science would be so extended that the western districts would receive advantages which, from its geographical position, the School of Science at Kingston can hardly be expected to give them. Mr. Meredith made a few remarks to the effect that it would be better to spend money on the two departments mentioned by Mr. Wood than on the medical faculty, concerning which there was some controversy. The motion then passed.

THE SMELTER BONUS.

Hon. Mr. Hardy then moved "that this House will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the following resolution:—"That a sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars