Dr. Ryerson said the net income of the Registrar of Toronto was $19,000 in 1889, but the Government then instead of reducing the expense had appointed a second Registrar. If another official had been necessary at all the appointment of a second Deputy Registrar would have been sufficient. He then read a number of figures to prove that a number of the Registrars are paid altogether too much for the work they have to do.

Mr. Whitney held that the Government would not acknowledge the position in which it found itself. It had taken up an untenable position, had been compelled to recede from it, and was trying to throw dust in the eyes of the country by trying to make out that there was no retreat. Public opinion had been awaking, had made itself heard, and was compelling attention from the Government.

The Attorney-General remarked that Mr. Whitney had proved that he had the strongest lungs used in the present debate and also that he had not read the bill in question, and was imagining it to be something very different from what it really was. He had led the House to understand that the Government had formerly advocated the fee system and was now abandoning it. That was incorrect; the bill in question was based on the fee system, and he would not change that system. His position in 1892 had been exactly the same as now. He held now as then, that the fee system was the most economical and reasonable, and he had not on any former occasion said anything as to the amount which should be received by the officers, merely speaking upon the principle of the system. It was a great error to say that varying pay was given for the same amount of work. It was because the work was not the same that the pay differed, and if a Registrar got ten times as much as another Registrar did it was because he did ten times as much work. The system had not been invented by the Government, it had been inherited from the friends of the hon. gentlemen opposite, and a number of changes, as, for instance, in the case of the Sheriffs, had been made with the full concurrence of the Opposition. He had no doubt that the system was the most economical one, and that if it were abandoned for a salary system the public revenue would suffer.

Mr. White maintained that the Government had receded from the position it took in 1892, and that the approach of the elections had extorted it from the Government.

The bill then passed.

MANHOOD SUFFRAGE.

Mr. Ross moved the second reading of the Government bill respecting registration of manhood suffrage voters in certain cities. He said he thought it hardly necessary to discuss the bill at length; hon. members had no doubt read it and were acquainted with the details. The bill affected Toronto, Hamilton, London and Ottawa. In Toronto alone last year the manhood suffrage voters numbered 10,466. It was impossible for the County Judge to deal adequately with so large a number, and as a consequence the work has not been satisfactory. The expense under the proposed system would be less than under the old system. In Toronto alone t e saving would be over $5,000, the expense being reduced from $6,800 to $1,200. The new measure would enable elections to be held on fresh lists instead of stale lists, and would in every way be an advantage. Mr. Ross then at some length discussed the machinery provided under the act with special reference to the Board of Registrars to be appointed to receive manhood suffrage registrations.

Mr. Meredith held that the bill was open to the objection so often urged against his side, of being a departure from British precedent, in that it was based on an Illinois act. Very little consideration had been paid to the fact that so many manhood franchise voters had been put to the trouble and expense of getting on the lists, and now had all their trouble to go through over again. The principle, if right, should apply to all classes of voters, and not merely to the manhood franchise voter. There was another inconvenience, in that the elections in the American system are fixed, and are not fixed here, so that the registration comes at uncertain times. This bill, Mr. Meredith went on, was open to the objection taken to the Dominion franchise act—that it would work against the interests of the party not in power. It was a mischievous principle to leave the settlement of the lists to officials in the pay and under the control of the Government. There should be an appeal to some Judge from the findings of this tribunal, Mr. Meredith declared. Another point was that many commercial travellers and others would lose their votes from being out of the city while the registration was going on. Large numbers of voters would not take the time and trouble to register. He was opposed to the bill.

HON. MR. HARDY SPEAI

Hon. Mr. Hardy said that M had found all the objections he could, and had given a very su ful exhibition of fault-finding. He pointed out the inefficiency of the present system, under which the Judge absolutely cannot examine the thousands of names submitted to him, and so has to leave the opposing parties to come to some sort of an agreement between themselves. He denied that there was any parallel between this bill and the Dominion Franchise act. The tribunals appointed by the Government to control the lists were, some of them, Judges, and altl of them men of high position and character. But the Dominion Government had refused to appoint Judges, or its own officials, as revising officers; it had been urged to do so by the Liberals, but had refused, and had appointed revising barristers, who were not always men of conspicuously high position or attainments. As for the manipulation of the lists, the Government had done nothing that was unfair; it had appointed the civic assessors in the act of the year before, and had never shown any disposition to inflict injustice upon the party opposite. As for the contention that the new method should apply to all the voters, Mr. Hardy pointed out that it would be much simpler to have the manhood franchise voters registered, they simply having to show residence and age. Everything was simple, and manipulation was impossible, while the present system is perfectly workable and good for the property voters by themselves. Commercial travellers, Mr. Hardy contended, would have no practical difficulty in getting their votes registered, and if the voters at large would not register they had only themselves to blame, for every chance was placed in their way. By the new system were taken in, first, those who, by recently moving, would otherwise have lost their vote; secondly, those assessed for $400 income, and, thirdly, those who prove residence and age qualifications. It was not correct to say that last year the Government refused a proposition which this year they were adopting. Last year's proposal was to open up all the lists, and this had not been done by this measure, only the manhood franchise voters being touched by it.

Mr. E. F. Clarke opposed the bill, which, he said, disfranchised at least one-half of the 11,000 manhood franchise voters in Toronto. The city had been put to great expense by last year's act, and many thousands of names had been placed upon the lists, only to be thrown aside, all the labor having gone for nothing. It would be physically impossible to register all of the 11,000 manhood franchise voters at sixteen places in four days, and the bill was unfair and unjust. It was unfair to confine it in its operations to Toronto.

SIR OLIVER MOWAT CLOSES.

The Attorney-General pointed out the hopelessness of really testing the reality of the voters registered under the old act, and held that under this bill the process is easy. He alluded to the difficulties surrounding the task of preparing a pure list, and to the corrupt practices which have, unfortunately, grown up. All systems have some objection to which they are open, but this was a system which would give both parties a cleaner and purer list than they had ever had before. The Dominion Government had kept the nomination of officials connected with the lists carefully in the party's own hands, but the Ontario Government was placing the power in the hands of officials appointed for other purposes, who held office practically for life, and who were in no danger of undue influence. As for the bill applying to Toronto only, the Government had received requests from other cities to be included in its conditions, and had some intention of amending it to that effect when in committee.

The bill was then carried on division, and the House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.