

would do, he (Mr. Garrow) should endeavor to secure the discharge of the bill, the parties promoting it preferring to have the existing law tested in the Court of Appeal to having the bill go into effect if amended so as to lose its declaratory quality. He therefore moved the discharge of the order.

After discussion of a few minutes the order for the third reading of the bill was discharged.

VARIOUS BILLS.

The House then gave the third reading to Mr. Conmee's Separate School bill, Hon. Mr. Ross observing that the amendments inserted, by leaving their present powers to returning officers of Separate Schools, and leaving the time of elections unaltered, were not open to the constitutional objections raised against the bill. Mr. Harty's bill regarding travel on highways and bridges was given its third reading. Mr. Tait's bill amending the Ontario election act was passed through committee and read a third time. Mr. Balfour's new street railway bill, a formal correction of an error which had crept into the bill which had been previously passed, and which he had introduced in the morning session, was advanced a stage.

IRON ORE RESOLUTION.

Hon. Mr. Hardy moved that the House go into committee to consider the following resolution:—"That a sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars be set aside out of the surplus moneys forming a part of the consolidated revenue fund of this Province, from which may be paid to the miners or producers of ore, upon all iron ores which shall be raised or mined or smelted in the Province for a period of five years from the first day of July, 1894, the equivalent of one dollar per ton of the pig metal product of such ores; but so that the sum to be paid out in any one year shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars."

Mr. Meredith protested against the Government being entrusted with this sum without more information being given upon the way in which it was to be spent.

Hon. Mr. Hardy explained that it was not proposed to give any money without the drawing up of regulations and their approval by the House. What he wished to do was to set up a standard, to encourage manufacturers; by next session the regulations could be drawn up.

The motion was carried on division, and the House went into committee.

Hon. Mr. Hardy further explained that it was proposed to pay the money over to the owner of the mine, and that the rate proposed was \$1 per ton. In response to a further objection of Mr. Meredith's, it was provided that in case more than 25,000 tons were raised in one year the money should be distributed on a pro rata basis. The resolution was then passed as amended. It was agreed to incorporate this resolution in the mining bill now before the House.

Hon. Mr. Ross' bill to amend the act respecting the fees of certain public officers was passed through committee, with some slight amendments, Mr. Meredith announcing that he would defer objections until the third reading.

VOTERS' LISTS ACT.

The same hon. gentleman's bill respecting registration of manhood suffrage voters in certain cities was then taken up in committee. Mr. Meredith objected to the first section of the bill, fearing lest the Government would use it for securing partizan advantages. After a brief discussion with Mr. Ross, he said he saw now that it was the deliberate purpose of the Government to avail themselves of the machinery of the bill, that they could manipulate the law in their own interests. He would avail himself of every privilege he possessed to prevent the bill becoming law. By issuing the writs early, he claimed that the work and expense of revising the lists would be thrown away if an early writ were issued and the elections were held on the old lists.

Mr. Tait and Mr. Balfour argued that there could be no party advantage in the bill. The newest list would be used in every case possible.

The matter was discussed until 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

At 8 o'clock the committee resumed its sitting, and Mr. Meredith spoke again. He contended that the bill would be unjust, and was an invidious distinction against the manhood suffrage voters. He concluded by moving an amendment, which, he said, would act only in the coming year; it was that when a manhood franchise voter has his name already on the lists, his personal attendance to be registered should not be necessary, but he should be registered as a voter under the provisions of the present bill, unless it be shown that he was not possessed of the other qualifications. That would, he said, make the present list the prima facie evidence as to a voter's qualification; if it

could be shown that he was not qualified his name could be stricken off.

Mr. Hardy briefly opposed the amendment, remarking that the case of Toronto, in which it was alleged much work would be lost, was due to the slowness with which the Toronto lists have been applied.

Mr. E. F. Clarke declared that the Toronto lists are even further advanced than could be expected, considering the amount of printing necessary. Hon. Mr. Ross contended that the bill was perfectly fair, and that the amount of work which would be lost would be divided between the two parties and was inevitable. Mr. Meredith rejoined, and Mr. McCoil objected to the bill.

The Attorney-General said it was difficult to consider an amendment proposed in the state of mind into which Mr. Meredith had worked himself. The hon. gentleman had made a number of false charges, honestly made, no doubt, but still false. He said himself that according to the Young Liberals the Reform party had made gains at the last revision. That showed what was evident from the general tenor of the present bill, that there was no party advantage in the present measure. It seemed to him that any intelligent man who looked into the matter would come to this conclusion. The hon. gentleman had referred particularly to London. Now, as a matter of fact, in London the Board of Registrars would be composed of three Conservatives and one Reformer, two County Judges, one of them from past occurrences particularly obnoxious to Reformers, the Master in Chambers and the Police Magistrate, the latter a Reformer, but not an active one, of course. This was one of numerous indications showing the bill to give no party advantage. He thought it had been so carefully prepared that every partizan feature had been excluded, and that no bill could give more satisfaction to the public generally. Each party had felt the objection to holding an election on old lists one of the great difficulties under the old system was the utter impossibility of appealing with any effect. The Government realized that the most desirable point in connection with a voters' list was to have it pure, and he held that this bill provided fair and reasonable machinery for carrying this into effect. This law, he said, would only apply when no revision had taken place. As for the argument that many would not have time to go to register, it was a fact that everywhere, even in times of excitement, a large proportion of the votes are unpolled. The young men were not charged with wrong-doing. What was asserted was that much wrong was done by others in their name. He would be glad to consider any fair amendment, but the present one, as based on baseless charges, he could not consider.

Mr. E. F. Clarke urged that officials be appointed to revise the already-prepared lists.

The Attorney-General replied that the enormous number of appeals would prevent this from working. It had never entered the minds of the Government that they were trying to make it difficult for the young men to vote; the fact that the labor organizations, who were most nearly concerned in this matter, had approved of the bill was an answer to this statement.

Mr. Clarke again urged his plan of a revision. Mr. Tait followed, saying that Mr. Clarke was enamored of the old system, under which no revision was possible. He recalled the case of 1892, when revision proved absolutely impossible, and the list was exceedingly bad. Those who approved of the proposed list were the workmen, Conservative and Liberal, and all the newspapers, excepting The Empire, and it had been found necessary to find a side issue on which to oppose it. The old system had proved a failure, and had resulted in great evils, and the present bill would settle all that. Love of the evils of the old system prompted the opposition to the bill, with which the manhood suffrage voters would not sympathize.

Mr. Meredith defended the plan which he had submitted, and objected to the imputation of motives which had been indulged in by the Attorney-General.

Hon. Mr. Hardy remarked that the workmen, on whose behalf the hon. gentleman had been so much exercised, had expressed their approval of the plan. It was no hardship to ask a man to walk round two or three blocks to get his vote recorded; a man who would not take that trouble did not deserve a vote. The state of affairs in Toronto had been disgraceful, and many crimes had been committed, as hon. gentlemen knew.

Mr. Clarke challenged the Commissioner of Crown Lands to prove that he had been cognizant of any corrupt practices. He denied that there had been any general demand for this bill on the part of the workmen.

Mr. Balfour held that the Opposition had receded from one position after another, and were now reduced to approving of the bulk of the present bill, and were merely striving to keep a part of the old law. He thought that a new list should