

emotions when he thought of what was going to happen to so many of his hon. friends opposite, how many of their familiar faces would be missed from the chamber, how many of them would shortly have to bid a long farewell to the scene of their labors. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. Ross' remarks called up most of the hon. gentlemen to whom he had alluded, Mr. Hiscott heading the list and making a vigorous defence of the policy of protection for the farmers of Canada. Mr. White said he was not retiring. A Patron and a straight Grit were running in his constituency, and he would be glad of another to run there, "so that he could lick three instead of two."

Other items in the estimates were then proceeded with. Mr. Meredith objected to the item of \$3,500 to be paid to the Municipal Corporation of Proton, in Grey County, in full of all claims in respect of Grammar School lands. He said Mr. Creighton and Mr. Blythe when members of the House had endeavored to effect a settlement without success. Now the Government proposed to do it on the eve of an election. The motive was evident.

The Attorney-General said Mr. Meredith had frequently expressed himself in favor of paying Proton this claim. The point was this: The amount of money Proton would be entitled to under a legal claim would be \$8,000, and twice that amount as interest, in all about \$25,000. He had never been able to admit there was a legal claim, and did not admit it now. But it was argued all along that while there might be no legal claim there was an equitable claim for a certain portion of the money. There was a strong feeling abroad among the people of Proton, also, that they were entitled to this money. He would not say it was perfectly certain there was no legal claim for the full amount. Therefore, he claimed, under all the circumstances it was a distinct advantage to the Province to be able to settle the matter for the sum named.

Mr. Clancy and Mr. McKechnie also discussed the point.

Mr. Meredith objected to an item of \$1,500 for the Dairy School and Mining School at Kingston.

Mr. Hartly said if the City of London were to do what the City of Kingston had done he had no doubt London would have been able to get a Normal School. Kingston had raised through its citizens and Council \$55,000, and proposed increasing it to \$100,000 which had been devoted to building this Mining School, and the vote of the Government was simply to aid in establishing a new department in connection with it.

The supplemental estimates finally were put through and reported to the House.

The bill respecting aid to certain railways was then read a second time without debate.

INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of his bill respecting the election of licensees of timber limits, which provides in effect that such licensees may sit in the Legislature, but may not vote on questions affecting their interests. He referred to a British precedent in which a Rothschild being concerned in certain Government bonds was supposed by some to have violated the independence of Parliament, and a committee was appointed to investigate the same. The committee reported there was no such violation, but nevertheless there was an act passed through Parliament allowing him to sit. Following this precedent he had introduced the present bill to cover the case of the member for Ottawa, whose position had been recently the subject of attack. As to his position in the Cabinet the objection hardly applied, as there was no voting done there.

Mr. Whitney said the Attorney-General had been quick to realize in part the point made by the Opposition, but he thought in making this special provision for his sitting in the House they placed themselves clearly in the wrong in allowing him to occupy a seat in the Cabinet.

Mr. Meredith said he considered the subject so important that he would divide the House on it. He emphasized the point taken by Mr. Whitney.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said the practice objected to by the Opposition was not a new one and had only just been objected to by them. If the objection were applied as strictly as some members of the Opposition now argued, half the members of the House would be prohibited from voting on half the subjects that came up. Certainly the practice argued for here was not strictly followed at Ottawa, where Hon. Frank Smith, while dealing in liquors and groceries, had for years sat in the Cabinet and regulated the duties on these articles, and Mr. Carling had occupied a position of a somewhat similar nature. The law applied as they would have it would exclude wholesale grocers from the Dominion House and would prevent members of the Legislature from voting on their indemnity.

Mr. Clancy contended that Mr. Bronson

was in a position to become possessed of information which would be greatly to his private advantage in connection with timber limits.

Mr. Hardy said Mr. Bronson was not in possession of any such information, and had never sought to become possessed of it.

Mr. Clancy said he had a right to it, at any rate.

Mr. Hardy said he did not agree with this. If Mr. Bronson had sought to obtain such information, he would have considered whether, under the circumstances, it would be in the public interest to give it. But, he repeated, Mr. Bronson had never sought any such information. Mr. Bronson resided in Ottawa, moreover, and did not usually attend Council meetings, save during the session.

The Attorney-General said Mr. Bronson's advice had frequently been of great value to the Government. It would be a misfortune if such a man as the member for Ottawa were to be prevented from sitting either in the House or in the Government. Mr. Bronson had never taken part in any discussion affecting his own interests. He would not have accepted the position in the Government had he anticipated doing so.

Mr. Meachara moved an amendment, which was in effect that timber licensees should not sit in the House, and should not sit in the Executive Council.

The amendment was put to the vote, and defeated by 41 to 21.

Mr. McCallum, the P.P.A. representative, and Mr. Miscampbell, Conservative, supported the Government.

The bill was then read a second time, and the House rose at 11.45 p.m.