

The Attorney-General said that since the township was added to Kingston the population of the county had decreased and that of the city had increased. It was desirable, therefore, that the populations should be evened up.

Mr. Meredith said it was well known what position the member for Kingston was expected to occupy in regard to the Administration, if the Administration was successful at the coming elections, and the Government must have known before this late hour what was intended to be done in the matter, and it should have been introduced in the bill in the first place.

Mr. Taft, said the City Council of Kingston and the County Council of Frontenac wanted the change proposed by Mr. Hart, and he thought there was really no reason for its not being done. The section was allowed to remain in the bill.

An amendment was passed to enable voters included in part I. of the voters' list who have transferred themselves from one division to another since the compiling of the list to retain their qualification. In the case of Hamilton, where the lists are completed, the appeal against such disqualification is possible until the day before election, in the case of Toronto until May 18.

The bill was discussed in committee and slightly amended in other respects until 6 o'clock, when recess was taken.

EVENING SESSION.

After recess the bill was reported and the third reading moved. Mr. Monk moved an amendment to refer the bill back to committee and amend it by striking out that part of the bill providing for adding certain villages from Carleton County into Ottawa City constituency, and also to provide for Ottawa being divided into two electoral districts. Mr. Meredith supported the amendment, and Mr. Gibson briefly replied. He said the reason for bringing the villages in question into Ottawa City constituency was because there was every reason to expect they would soon be annexed to the city. As to the division of the city there had been no representations made that that was considered desirable and it would be difficult to arrange in any case.

The amendment was lost by 29 to 12, and the bill was then read a third time.

The registration bill was then once more briefly amended in committee and reported for third reading, whereupon Mr. Meredith moved an amendment. He reiterated briefly his objections to the bill, and said that while not wishing to oppose entirely the principle of personal registration, he wished to place on record the objections of the Opposition in the following form:—The said bill imposes on the manhood suffrage

electors the necessity for personal attendance for the purpose of being registered as voters, but does not impose that condition on other electors and thereby establishes an unjust and invidious distinction between different classes of persons entitled to the franchise and vitiates sound principles of legislation, which demand that the laws should be so framed as to bear equally on all classes of people; and this House, in assenting to the third reading of the said bill, does not commit itself to the principle of applying the system of registration to a portion only of the electorate, or to the principle of entrusting the preparation of the voters' lists to boards composed in part of officials holding their offices at the pleasure of the Government of the day.

Mr. Ross replied briefly, pointing out the difficulties under which a young man labored under the old system in trying to register in case of an appeal. All possible difficulty was removed under the present system, and the young man had simply to walk a block or two a few days before the election to make his first step of citizenship by enrolling his name as a voter. He denied that there was any invidious distinction under the bill, and as to the expense, it would be less under this bill than under the old one, both for the voter and for the city. Mr. Meredith wanted the municipal officers retained in the making of the list. That was sound Liberal doctrine, but not the doctrine followed by the Ottawa Government in its franchise act. Under the new system the municipal officers would have to do with the list still in rural constituencies, and also in cities, save where the manhood franchise list was concerned, in which case the preparation of the list has been put in the hands of officials of high standing. Mr. Ross closed by observing that he was satisfied that the new system would insure a pure franchise.

Mr. Wood of Brant moved an amendment to the amendment, which concurred in the principle of the bill as providing safeguards for the voter which did not prevail under the old system.

Mr. Meredith said this resolution would have the effect of moving the previous question and shutting out the possibility of any amendment. He appealed to the Attorney-General not to allow the motion to be passed. He held also it was out of order.

Mr. Hardy said such a motion was a common one, and he had never heard it was not in order.

The Speaker said, after consulting May, that according to recent practice in legislative assemblies, and to recent rulings, the motion was in order.

The Attorney-General said he had been unaware of the amendment, but as it appeared to be in order, he saw no necessity to interfere.

Mr. Meredith said the amendment was evidently inspired by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. It was unfair to the Opposition, was, in fact, gagging them. It was most unfair to deprive the minority of the opportunity of placing themselves on record.

Mr. Hardy said it could not have been expected that having just moved an amendment purporting to express the policy of the Opposition, there were other amendments held in reserve, also embodying the same views. The bill had been discussed a week or so, more than any bill ever enacted in the House. He did not see that the Opposition needed any commiseration under the circumstances. However, said Mr. Hardy, if all the Opposition wished was to place themselves on record, they could move amendments and have them declared out of order. They would still be on the records.

Mr. Whitney objected strongly to the stand of the Government.

The Speaker meanwhile had consulted with the Clerk of the House, and now expressed his opinion that the second amendment, being a proposed addition to the bill, was in conflict with a decision which he had given during the previous session.

Mr. Hardy ventured the opinion that the cases were not similar.

After some further discussion it was agreed to withdraw the second amendment. The vote was then taken on Mr. Meredith's amendment, which was lost by 29 to 13.

The motion for the third reading was again put, when Mr. E. F. Clarke moved an amendment embodying other objections of the Opposition. This was declared lost on the same division.

Then at last the bill was read a third time. Mr. Meredith took some objection to the title, but, this over, it passed at last beyond his reach.

A formal bill to grant certain sums of money for expenses of civil government was read a third time, and the business of the session was then concluded. The Attorney-General moved the adjournment of the House until half-past 2 on the following day, when prorogation would take place.

THE GRUNDY MATTER.

The adjournment did not, however, take place yet. Mr. Meredith called attention to the matter of the dismissal of Mr. Grundy, the Deputy Registrar. He said Mr. Awrey, Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts, had promised Mr. Grundy the protection of the Government on account of any evidence he might give before the committee, and his dismissal in the face of this was most improper, and called for an investigation by the Attorney-General. It had been suggested that the dismissal was due to a letter published by him subsequent to the giving of his evidence, but the letter was written only in reply to a statement that had been obtained from him against his wish, denying the evidence he had given before the committee.

The Attorney-General said he had not read the letter which had been referred to, but had heard of it, and he considered it would be his duty to have the matter investigated, and discover whether or not Mr. Grundy had been dismissed substantially on account of the evidence he had given before the committee, and, if so, to have reparation made to him.

The matter was further discussed by Messrs. Clancy, Hardy, Whitney, White and Awrey, and then, at 10.20 p.m., the motion for adjournment prevailed.

The members sang "God Save the Queen," and followed with a verse of "Auld Lang Syne." Then the members joyfully dispersed, after putting in the longest session since Confederation.