

character, for instance, should not take any part in elections. Mr. Hardy read an extract from The Brockville Recorder criticizing Mr. Whitney's position upon this question, and pointing out that he had been instrumental in bringing out Mr. Broder, a Dominion civil servant, as a candidate for the Dominion House.

Mr. Hardy concluded by saying that the resolution was entirely in accord with the views of the Government, and agreed with the Liberal platform laid down at the Ottawa Convention. He was very glad the resolution was introduced, because perhaps it would be laid down as a general rule for the general guidance of all civil servants.

Mr. Whitney denied some of the statements made by Mr. Hardy, and declared that the statement of The Recorder that he had been instrumental in bringing out Mr. Broder was entirely unfounded. He had worked for him in the election, but had nothing to do with his nomination. He denied that he had ever travelled with Sir Charles Tupper, or ever spoken on the same platform with him. He had only appeared upon a platform with him once, and that was at Ottawa, when Sir Charles was not permitted to speak.

Mr. Haycock expressed the hope that the Patrons' bill on this subject would be passed. He regretted that the resolution did not go farther.

Mr. Marter wanted to know what the effect of the passing of the motion would be if a bill would be introduced, and what the penalty would be for breaches of its provisions.

Mr. Ross hoped that it would not be understood that the Government condemned officials who had taken a quiet part in elections. The resolution merely laid down the principle that officials were not to go up and down the country interfering with the freedom of electors in the discharge of their high duty of casting their votes. The officials were a high-minded body of men, as was known by members of both sides of the House. The resolution would be regarded, he was sure, as binding by the officials, and no occasion would be found to condemn their actions.

It was remarkable that the resolution was so well received by the Opposition, whose friends at Ottawa had carried on such practices for eighteen years. If they were still in power there no doubt if the resolution would have been so well received. It was also remarkable that the Ontario Government, with a number of officials of high standing, was prepared to divest itself of the power that these officials were supposed to and probably did give. There was no instance of such ground being taken by the Conservative party.

Mr. Marter asked if the matter would simply end with this resolution.

Mr. Hardy replied that after the House had declared that the interference of officials was contrary to the policy of the House he presumed it would be the duty of the Government to dismiss any official offending in that manner.

Mr. Whitney—But the Government will be the judge.

Mr. Hardy—Of course, we are the judges of our own officials.

The motion was then passed.

#### A ST. THOMAS CASE.

Dr. Ryerson moved for an order of the House for a return of copies of all letters, telegrams, reports and documents in connection with the investigation into the conduct and dismissal of Henry Thornton, Bailiff. Also, the names of all applicants for the position, and copies of correspondence regarding the same. He said in explanation that the case looked like persecution of a Conservative employee of the Government, and impugned the fairness of the investigation held into the case at St. Thomas by Mr. Dickey. He read a copy of a long letter written by Judge Hughes of St. Thomas, making charges of unfairness and injustice against the inspector.

Mr. Harcourt said that the matter was one of great importance to the public. The remarks made on a recent occasion upon the Division Courts applied here; it was of great importance that every official should honestly and punctiliously perform his duty. The letter written by the Elgin Judge seemed to contain animus against the inspector. Twenty-six charges were specifically made out in the complaint and Mr. Dickey found against him on nearly all of these, and he thought the Judge should have refuted them in his letter. Some of these were constant overcharging in mileage and false

swearing in connection therewith, most serious offence. It was no answer on the part of the Bailiff to say what mileage he was entitled to. It was his duty to obey the regulations. He exacted excessive charges, and became interested in claims and cases, and made profit out of them, contrary to the law. He was guilty of false statements as to quantities of goods seized; acted as agent or solicitor for one of the parties of a suit; he disobeyed the warrants of the court; he did not keep his books correctly; he fraudulently represented that he held a landlord's warrant when he had not one, and making seizures; he improperly retained, according to Mr. Dickey's report, suitors' money; made false returns of executions, and so on. Mr. Harcourt spoke in the highest terms of Inspector Dickey, who was a painstaking and impartial official. This was the first time that any person in any position of authority had made any charge against him. There was a close season for all kinds of game down to black squirrels, but there appeared to be no close season for the officials of this Government. He could not believe that in this or any other matter Mr. Dickey could so forget his duty to himself as a man of honor and his duty to this great Province as to do what had been charged against him.

The question was again taken up at the evening session, the debate being participated in by Messrs. St. John, Macnish, Brower, Col. Matheson, Howland, Hardy and Whitney. Mr. Hardy stated that the charges against Mr. Dickey had been handed to the proper officer of the department for inquiry.

The motion for a return was carried.

Mr. Carnegie moved for the correspondence between any member of the Government and any officer of the Northern Exhibition, held at Walkerton, relating to the withholding of money payable to prize-winners. Carried.

Mr. Beatty (Leeds) moved for a return showing all the remuneration received by the Superintendents of each Asylum for the Insane in the Province for the years 1895 and 1896, whether paid in cash, or goods supplied, or from services rendered by other persons in the employ of the Government; keep of horse or horses, laundry, light, fuel, water, rents and taxes, or in any other way, directly or indirectly. An estimate of value of such additional services to be given where the exact amount cannot be specified. The motion was adopted.

#### MR. GAMEY'S BILL.

Mr. Gamey's bill to amend the election act by prohibiting public officials from taking part in elections was considered.

Mr. Hardy appealed to Mr. Gamey not to press the bill, considering the resolution which had been passed during the afternoon.

Mr. Gamey said that he wanted to give the supporters of the Government a chance to carry out their views upon the subject.

Mr. Hardy then asked why the bill should be limited to the officers of this Government. Why should it not be applied to other public officials? The resolution passed this afternoon should satisfy hon. members if they were disposed to deal fairly. The bill was partial in its operation. It was a malignant bill, and he feared it came from a malignant mind. It was a monstrous bill. The provisions for trying offenders were bad; the bill was mediaeval in its operation, and there should be provisions for the thumbscrew accompanying it.

Mr. Whitney punningly expressed his admiration for the "gamey" way in which the mover supported his bill. The bill went just as far as the resolution did, and if the resolution was good the bill was good. It clearly set forth what active participation meant, and was just the complement of the resolution. The resolution would be detrimental to the object intended, because it left the matter entirely in the hands of the gentlemen who happened to occupy the treasury benches.

As many members were absent from the chamber no division was taken upon the bill.

Mr. Whitney's motion for the return of correspondence relating to Mr. W. T. R. Preston's resignation was discharged.

A delegation from Port Arthur and Fort William will arrive to-morrow to interview the Government respecting aid to the Ontario & Rainy River Railway. The deputation will be reinforced by gentlemen from Hamilton, Kingston and Toronto.