

tended by the hon. member for West Huron, the blame laid upon the Government and those who have had charge of the consolidation of the statutes from time to time, and in this connection he pointed out that Mr. J. T. Garrow had been appointed a member of the commission on consolidation. He predicted that a wave of indignation would roll over the country when it is once understood that the Legislature intended passing an act declaratory of the state of the law on 1st March, and although the bill is not now apparently as bad as the original proposal, it is still bad enough and has many of the bad features of the child which had been abandoned. The effect of the bill, if adopted, would be to prevent the trial of the protests against the supporters of the Government possible until after the winter session of the House, whereas the protests against supporters of the Opposition might be decided and the bye-elections resulting therefrom, if any, held at a much earlier date. The Opposition was not attempting to attack the act against improper and illegal voting, and he agreed that it would be a crime to take away a man's rights. The Opposition was not attacking anybody's rights, but simply said that this House has no right to interfere in election trials that are now pending. Referring to the precedent of 1887 he argued that the circumstances surrounding the two cases are entirely different and that it would never have been passed had the petition against Sir John Macdonald's return protested against it as prejudicial to his interests. (Applause.)

Dr. McKay.

Dr. McKay (South Oxford) dealt with the Liberal majority, asserting that there was no danger to the Government, nor would there be for a good many years to come. He noted the increase of intellect and intelligence in the House and the acquisition of a better class of men from the ranks of both parties. A good deal of credit was due to the Conservatives also in selecting better candidates than usual. He contrasted the comfort of the present session to the discomfort of a winter meeting in an artificially-heated atmosphere, and said it would be a good idea to call a summer session from time to time, so as to give the members a pleasant outing in the beautiful City of Toronto. Taking up the constable question, he pointed out that if it was held that 3,000 voters in the Province of Ontario had voted illegally at the last election they would be subject to the penalties under the election act. It was the duty of the Legislature to say that these people, who, by the interpretation of both parties since Confederation and long before placed upon that law, had the undoubted right to that franchise, should be protected from the penalty of the act. The Conservatives were always boasting of their loyalty to British institutions, and yet they objected to the numbered ballot, which was adopted in Great Britain in 1872 and was still in force. (Ministerial-applause.) Reference was made to the ballot-box stuffing which had taken place in Manitoba. No doubt the Conservatives would like a similar ballot in Ontario. Fraud had also been proven in West

Northumberland and South Grey in connection with the use of the Dominion ballot, and it would be well if the British numbered ballot was adopted by the Dominion, as it had been so largely by the United States. The Australian ballot also was very similar. Not in twelve years' experience in the House had the speaker known the Conservatives to prove one of their many charges. The growth of the appropriation for agricultural purposes to a quarter of a million per annum was referred to in refutation of the contention of the member for Stormont that the Government had neglected agricultural interests. The Agricultural College at Guelph was a grand institution, and was a tribute to the intelligent, liberal manner in which the Ontario Government dealt with the farmers' interests. Dr. McKay paid a high compliment to Hon. John Dryden, and prophesied that the House would not carry Mr. Whitney's motion of want of confidence merely because two Ministers had been defeated.

Evening Session.

When Mr. Lumsden of Ottawa spoke the other day he called himself the senior representative of the capital city. Mr. Powell, who had the floor when the House resumed in the evening, was not to be outdone and introduced himself as the senior Conservative member for that city. He congratulated the Speaker, but could not congratulate Mr. Hardy for calling the House together at such an inopportune time. It did not matter much perhaps to the lawyers, but to the farmers and lumbermen it was a serious thing. This was their busy time. Being a military man he was glad to see that the excellent guard of honor at the opening of the House was composed of volunteers and not regulars. The bandmaster, too, was a man of discernment when he played "A Hot Time." The hot time would, he predicted, continue, because the Conservatives were now in the hot glare of Opposition; it was no longer the cold shades. (Opposition applause.) Mr. Powell dismissed the speech from the throne in the following sentence,

"A good deal of bluff, a certain amount of stuff and a good deal about fish." The speaker contended that, according to Bourinot, Mrs. Hardy had violated the rules of Parliamentary procedure when he divulged in the notice calling the House what her Majesty's representative would say in opening the House. The Legislature was likened to a joint stock company, with this difference: the joint stock company was governed by law, and the Legislature by precept. If three of the directors of a joint stock company are missing and the remaining directors cannot re-elect new directors the stockholders are summoned together for the purpose of filling the vacancies. The Legislature should, he held, be similarly guided in filling the vacant portfolios. Bourinot held that a Minister must have a seat on the floor of the House. "We demand it," said Mr. Powell, "and the people of Ontario demand it." In regard to the constables he wanted the election courts and not the Court of Appeal to decide, nor did he want the Legislature to have anything to do with