

stables are not entitled to vote they left it to the people as the final tribunal. (Cheers.)

The Opposition Leader.

Mr. Whitney said he was very much interested, and, if allowed to say so, a little amused by the statement of his hon. friend, the Premier, that he was anxious to get before the people. Now if that be true, if the hon. gentleman is anxious to get before the people, it might be that perhaps was the reason of the party in taking away by this bill the right which the law of this land gives the candidate for this Legislature, when he has proved that illegal votes have been cast for his opponent, that he shall be entitled to take his seat, and it might be that that is what his hon. friend meant, that whereas under ordinary circumstances the man who has been cheated and juggled out of his seat shall have it given back to him. The bill of his hon. friend takes

that right away from him, a procedure unknown in any other Legislature in the civilized world. (Cheers.) The Opposition proposed to take every constitutional means to prevent his hon. friend from preventing them getting before the people. (Cheers.) He did not propose to take up the time of the House at all that afternoon, but would refer to just one other matter, one other symptom which appears in every speech made from the Government side of the House—and it was not only on this question but it has been so on every question ever since he entered the House, and it was this, that when the Government finds itself in a tight corner, when it is to blame for having neglected its plain duty, its only excuse for its continued existence is to say that the Opposition is to blame. Who, he asked, are the guardians of the legislation of this Province? Who are the people selected by the electorate and paid for looking after the legislation of this Province? Who but the hon. gentlemen on the treasury benches, and they turn around to say to the Opposition, "You are to blame if the constables have not the right to vote." One did not like to say such arguments are twaddle and that they are simply nonsense, and did not want to harbor the idea that these gentlemen have any better explanation than that. During all these years why have not the Government done their duty? Why have not Sir Matthew Crooks Cameron and Sir William R. Meredith done this? They were not asked. These hon. gentlemen were not paid for doing it as hon. gentlemen opposite had been. Therefore it came down to this, that if they were sitting there in this August session it was because the Government had, as trustees of the interests of the people of Ontario, sat by the wayside and neglected their duty. (Cheers.) In conclusion, he reiterated the intention of the Opposition to use every Parliamentary procedure reasonable to show their objection to this measure in order to make it plain and clear to the people, whose servants they are, what objection in their interests the Opposition propose to make to what they say is monstrous legislation and a monstrous abuse of the powers

which pertained to the Legislature. As he proposed having a full and complete discussion of the details of the bill on the second reading he would not detain the House any longer. (Cheers.)

The bill was then given a first reading and the House adjourned.

The Game Laws.

Mr. Auld, South Essex, has presented to the Commissioner of Crown Lands a petition bearing 1,200 signatures, expressing appreciation of the present game laws of the Province, especially so far as they prohibit the sale of quail and other valuable game birds, and asking that the term of such prohibition should be extended indefinitely. The petition also asks that the close season for quail be extended from the 15th of October to the 15th of November, thereby limiting the open season to one month. The reasons assigned for this request are: that at the opening of the season for quail shooting, on the 15th day of October, there are a great many birds which are immature and not old enough to be strong on the wing, and on account thereof large numbers of young quail are slaughtered by those who are unsportsmanlike enough to do so; during the first month of the present quail season farmers are busy in their fields, and the hunting of quail over the fields is an annoyance to them, as well as being dangerous to them and their cattle; the first month of the present quail season is usually dry and hot and unfit for good work in the field, and that if the quail season were limited to one month it would afford better sport and would contribute materially to the protection and increase of the quail in our country by allowing sufficient time for late broods to become fully matured.