

substance, the jurisdiction of the Minister of Agriculture as a court to decide such questions.

Mr. McCARTHY. No; there is the appeal.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He has the power to sit upon the case, but in every matter of this kind there will be an appeal. That is only one of the clauses of the Bill. I think, therefore, my hon. friend's Bill ought not to receive a second reading, and I think, also, that the Minister of Agriculture should feel himself bound to bring down an Act to give himself the powers claimed by this measure.

Mr. EDGAR. As it is perfectly evident a large majority of this House are in favor of a portion of the Bill, I do not see why my hon. friend should not move that portion of the Bill, amending the Bill by leaving out the remainder.

Mr. McCARTHY. I would ask leave, on the contrary, to move the discharge of the Order. If the Government will deal with the Bill I would prefer they would deal with it. When the Government measure is brought down it will be in the competency of any hon. member to move such amendments as he may think proper to it. I do this on the understanding that the Government will deal with the matter.

Mr. WHITE (Hastings) asked for leave to withdraw amendment.

Amendment withdrawn.

Mr. McCARTHY asked for leave to withdraw the motion for second reading.

Motion withdrawn and Order be discharged.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 19th March, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

Mr. CHAPLEAU moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 102) to amend the Acts respecting the Department of the Secretary of State. He said: The Bill is quite unimportant, except in one clause which provides that the Deputy Registrar General shall be appointed by Commission under the Great Seal instead of by an Order in Council. The name of the Deputy Registrar General appears in all the most important documents, and I think he should be appointed by Commission and not by Order in Council. The other part of the Bill is only to mention more particularly by name different instruments which are to be registered in the Registrar-General's Office.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

ELECTORAL FRANCHISES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 103) respecting the Electoral Franchise. He said: It is not necessary to go into a discussion of the Bill. The Bill is substantially on the lines of the Bill of last year, of which the general principles were stated to the House. I move the first reading of the Bill.

Mr. BLAKE. I suppose, after the announcement the hon. gentleman made the other day as to the proper course being to make an expository speech, with reference to a Public Bill upon its introduction, we should have had from the hon. gentleman an explanation of the principle of this Bill. The hon. gentleman says that he has not given us that explanation, because the Bill is upon the general lines of the measure of last year, the principles of which were then explained to the House. That is rather an elastic expression, "upon the general lines." One would like very much to know how far it varies from those lines. But I must say that, according to my recollection, the hon. gentleman did not give any explanation at all upon the introduction of the Bill last year. I think such explanation as it was, was upon a still more remote occasion, because if this Bill is the same old Bill, it is an older friend than of last year—I think it was in the year before last that the hon. gentleman said something, and he said then very little. For example, one of the very important proposals the hon. gentleman then made was to extend the electoral franchise to the women of the country. But he gave no reasons for that; he entered into no exposition of the grounds of his action. The hon. gentleman did give some explanation upon that occasion with reference to another feature of the Bill. He told us he was about to appoint revising officers who were also to make up the lists; they were to make and revise the lists; and he declared that those officers were to be appointed by the Government of the day, as was done in England, where they were appointed by the Lord Chancellor, a member of the Government. Well, that was an explanation as far as it went. The only difficulty about that explanation was that it was an utterly erroneous explanation, that it did not state the facts of the case as they were in England, that the fact is not such as the hon. gentleman described. The hon. gentleman is now about to make—I cannot exactly remember—but I think his sixth or seventh attempt of passing a Franchise Bill for the Dominion of Canada; he is now proposing for the third time in this Parliament the passing of the Franchise Bill. He had decided, as it appeared by the Speech from the Throne, that the time had come to press this measure again. But I think it was his bounden duty to have brought it forward earlier; I think it was his duty to have brought it forward amongst the very first Bills. We had a great display of activity on the part of the members of the Government at the opening of the Session. There were a half dozen little—I cannot call them Bills—little pellets, thrown across the House on the first days immediately after the Address was passed. We had a little Bill from the Minister of Finance about precautions as to advances from the Provinces. We had a little Bill, I think, from the hon. Minister of Railways, and a Bill, I think, from one or two other Ministers, perhaps. The hon. gentlemen look surprised; I dare say they have both forgotten.

Mr. POPE. I am surprised because you happened to hit the thing just as it was.

Mr. BLAKE. I thought I hit the right spot. These simple measures were presented amid the cheers of their followers, as evidences of their appreciation of the extreme diligence of the hon. gentlemen opposite in the conduct of public business; but it was much cry and little wool. And now at the end of the seventh week of the Session, when we are told we are to get into the serious business, it is that the hon. gentleman, takes the first step towards bringing forward such an important measure as the Franchise Bill. The hon. gentleman has not favored us with the expository speech that we certainly had a right to expect from his former utterances, and therefore he has given me nothing to reply to as yet.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.