

April 23, 1874

of some determinate shape or size, or the lines might be crossed at some particular angle previously agreed upon. He suggested as a means of obviating such a corrupt arrangement between the voter and anyone else that the ballot might be punctured in such a manner that the elector should remove a piece of paper from it opposite the name of the person he voted for.

Mr. McDONNELL contended that universal suffrage should precede the ballot. (*Hear, hear.*) He thought the great majority was entitled to the franchise, which would enable a man to think and act as a man. This country was different from England, inasmuch as it had not tenantry. He held that if property was made the basis of the franchise they must respect property according to its amount; and if they gave a man one vote because he had property to the amount of \$200, they should give a man who had more property than that a greater number of votes.

He expressed himself in favour of an extended franchise, and said that he found in his constituency that men assembled in as large crowds on nomination days since the present system was established as before it, because they expected to hear the candidates speak. He thought the assembling of a crowd on nomination days could only be prevented by prohibiting the candidates from speaking on those days. As to the qualification of candidates he went entirely with the bill.

Mr. CARON (in French) agreed with the Minister of Justice, who had expounded his views with such clearness. The bill involved questions of the greatest moment to the future of the people of this Dominion. The ballot had been adopted by the most civilized nations and the farthest advanced in political science, and

had been found to work well. As to the franchise, he was in favour of the system they had enjoyed hitherto. He did not approve of abolishing the nomination day. He thought it enabled the people to discuss the political questions of the day with advantage to themselves. (*Applause.*)

Mr. SCHULTZ held that before another general election was held, communication with Manitoba would be so easy that there was no reason for making it an exception to the simultaneous polling, which was an advantage to Manitoba, if anywhere. It sent so few representatives that the result of elections elsewhere had a great influence there. He approved of compulsory voting, and if a measure embodying that principle were brought in it would receive his most hearty support.

The second reading of the bill was then carried. The bill will be considered in Committee of the Whole tomorrow.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD inquired if the bill was to be proceeded with in preference to other bills tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: Either this or the estimates.

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SUPPLEMENTARY RETURN

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE brought down a supplementary return of the papers on the Northwest troubles, a letter from Sir Clinton Murdock.

The House adjourned at midnight.