

relegate that matter to the courts, where the details might be more thoroughly investigated, but here we have on the Votes and Proceedings every detail of this case. The hon. gentlemen have not suggested that there is any additional detail which they propose to lay before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, or before the courts, if it should be sent before the courts; so we are to-day in as good a position as we could be after the committee have decided and presented their report. The only advantage which could be obtained would be that we would have the opinion expressed by a small number of the majority of that committee. But we have had already the advantage of the opinion of a large number of the members of this House, quite as many, I believe, as are on that committee, and I think we are quite justified in proceeding to an immediate decision. I believe that this is not so much a matter of law as a matter of justice. It is said that we should not decide the question between Mr. King and the present sitting member for that county. It is not only those two gentlemen who are concerned, but it is the voters of that county who are interested, and I believe they are the chief people to be considered. I believe that the rank and file of the voters of the county have the right to be considered much more than any person who happens to be for the moment the choice of the voters in any county. I was surprised to hear the Minister of Marine and Fisheries make some remarks in reference to the present sitting member for Queen's, N.B. I understood the member for St. John (Mr. Skinner) to refer to some statements put forth by the present sitting member and I understood the Minister of Marine to say that those statements had been denied, and that the sitting member had never made such statements. I should suppose that the sitting member would say "save me from my friends," because, if that gentleman ever showed that he was a man of honor, it was when he made those statements, if he did make them, and not now, when he takes his seat in this House in opposition to the votes of the county he is supposed to represent. If that hon. gentleman did not make use of these expressions, I regret to hear it. I am sorry to think that at no time did he feel the whole responsibility of his actions, that at no time was he actuated by that high sense of honor I had supposed had actuated him. But, Sir, there is a question to be considered also with regard to the returning officer to whom the hon. Minister of Marine gave a high character. I think, however, we had sufficient grounds to go upon without taking his character from anybody. This returning officer, when he knew that he was in the position of an active partisan, that he was holding confidential relations with one of the two candidates, deliberately accepted the position of judge, as between the two candidates of that county. Nobody who had a high sense of the duties of that position, who had a great sense of self-respect, would have accepted such an anomalous and invidious position. Had the returning officer been such a man as the Minister of Marine described him to be, he would have refused to act as returning officer after he had held the position of secretary of the Conservative Association of that county. Sir, I do not believe that as the facts are clearly laid before us, we ought to allow them to be surrounded by such a cloud of legal quibbling as that the people of the country may be led to believe that these facts are not clear as daylight. I can only believe that this proposition to refer this question to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, is a scheme by which the Government propose to relieve themselves and their supporters of a direct vote in this House, and of the responsibility of such a partisan action as the one in question. They think by shielding themselves under the report of a committee, the people of the country will be prevented from having a clear perception of the character of this act, and the Government hope thereby to shield themselves

from the condemnation of all right-minded people in the country. I trust the course of this debate has been such as to secure that they will not succeed. While speaking thus, I think I may defend those hon. gentlemen around me who have showed, perhaps, a little heat in the midst of this debate. Hon. gentlemen opposite accuse us of having showed partisanship. Sir, the hon. gentleman who proposed this motion to the House is acknowledged by all on the opposite side to have done so in a judicial spirit, without showing any partisan feeling, but I do not wonder after they heard the speech of the hon. Minister of Justice, and the speeches of the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Tupper) and others, which precluded us from any hope that this question will be treated upon its merits, and which precluded us from any hope of obtaining justice from the Government for our friend, the late member for Queen's in the last Parliament. I do not wonder, I say, that the members of this side of the House allowing themselves to speak strongly, and if they have shown any heat it is only because they found that the Government of to-day were disposed to excuse this outrage, and were not prepared to grant justice to the man who had received the majority of the votes.

House divided on amendment of Mr. Thompson (p. 160):

YEAH:

Messieurs

Audet,	Guillet,	Putnam,
Bain (Soulanges),	Haggart,	Reid,
Bergeron,	Hall,	Riopel,
Bergin,	Hesson,	Robertson (Hastings),
Bowell,	Hickey,	Robillard,
Boyle,	Jamieson,	Roome,
Brown,	Joncas,	Ross,
Bryson,	Kenny,	Royal,
Burns,	Labelle,	Rykert,
Cameron,	Landry,	Scarth,
Campbell (Digby),	Langevin (Sir Hector),	Shakespeare,
Carling,	Macdonald (Sir John),	Shanly,
Carpenter,	McCarthy,	Small,
Caron, (Sir Adolphe),	McCulla,	Smith (Sir Donald),
Chapleau,	McDonald (Victoria),	Smith (Ontario),
Chisholm,	McDougald (Pictou),	Sproule,
Cockburn,	McDougall (C. Breton),	Stevenson,
Colby,	McGreevy,	Taylor,
Oostigan,	McKay,	Temple,
Coughlin,	McKeen,	Thérien,
Coulombe,	McLelan,	Thompson,
Couture,	McMillan (Vaudreuil),	Tisdale,
Curran,	McNeill,	Tupper (Sir Charles),
Daly,	Madill,	Tupper (Pictou),
Davin,	Mara,	Tyrwhitt,
Davis,	Marshall,	Vanasse,
Dawson,	Masson,	Wallace,
Denison,	Mills (Annapolis),	Ward,
Desjardins,	Moncreiff,	White (Cardwell),
Ferguson (Leeds & Gren),	Montague,	White (Renfrew),
Foster,	Montplaisir,	Wilmot,
Freeman,	O'Brien,	Wilson (Argenteuil),
Gaudet,	Perley (Assiniboia),	Wilson (Lennox),
Girouard,	Perley (Ottawa),	Wood (Brockville),
Gordon,	Pope,	Wood (Westmoreland),
Grandbois,	Porter,	Wright.—109.
Guilbault,		

NAYS

Messieurs

Amyot,	Edgar,	McMillan (Huron),
Armstrong,	Eisenhauer,	McMullen,
Bain (Wentworth),	Ellis,	Mallory,
Barron,	Fiset,	Mills (Bothwell),
Béchar,	Fisher,	Mitchell,
Bernier,	Flynn,	Mulock,
Blake,	Gauthier,	Paterson (Brant),
Borden,	Geoffrion,	Paterson (Essex),
Bourassa,	Gigault,	Perry,
Bowman,	Gillmor,	Platt,
Brien,	Godbout,	Rinfret,
Campbell (Kent),	Guay,	Robertson (King's, P.E.I.),
Campbell (Renfrew),	Hale,	Robertson (Shelburne),
Cartwright (Sir Richd.),	Holton,	Ste. Marie,
Casey,	Innes,	Scriver,
Casgrain,	Jones,	Semple,