

June 12, 1872

The following orders were discharged:—**Mr. MAGILL**, adoption of report of select Committee on manufacturing interests; **Mr. HARRISON**, to extend the right of appeal in criminal cases; **Mr. HARRISON** further to amend the Insolvent Act of 1869; **Mr. HARRISON**, for the more speedy apprehension of fugitive criminals; **Mr. CARTER (Brome)**, to facilitate arrangements with debtor and creditor, to punish fraudulent debtors, and to abolish preference in favour of judgment creditors; **Hon. Mr. ABBOTT**, to provide for the appointment of average adjusters in the principal ports of the Dominion.

AFTER RECESS

ELECTION ACT

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Interim Parliamentary Election Act of 1871.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said that at the last general election the municipalities did not make the required sub-divisions and polling places in accordance with the law, and great inconvenience had resulted in consequence. No provision had been made for the payment of the expenses of the returning officer.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Peel) agreed with his hon. friend as to the difficulties which arose from sub-divisions not having been laid out at the last general election, but that had been done at recent provincial elections, and these sub-divisions would still remain and when reorganized by the present bill the difficulty would be met.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then explained the object of every clause of the bill. The first clause provides that in the Province of Ontario, subject to the special provisions hereinafter made, the qualification of voters at elections for members of the House of Commons shall be that established by the laws in force in that province on the 23rd day of January, 1869, as to the qualifications of voters at elections for members of the Legislative Assembly; and the voters lists to be used at elections of members of the House of Commons shall be the same as at such elections of members of the Legislative Assembly, on the basis of the qualification aforesaid, and the polling subdivisions or wards in the most central and convenient place for such elections. The other clauses relate to Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia. He proposed to add a clause in Committee, applying the Local Act in Manitoba for the trial of Controverted Elections by Judges to the Dominion Elections in that Province.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: Then why not extend the local law of Ontario on the same subject to Dominion elections in that Province?

After which the House went into committee, amended the bill and rose and reported.

Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU on motion for concurrence in the amendments moved, seconded by **Mr. SIMARD**, and the Question being put, That the following Clause be added to the Bill:—"The holders of houses of the annual value of twenty dollars, of the Indian Village of Lorette, in the County of Quebec, shall be allowed to vote at the poll, or at one of the polls of the Parish of Saint Ambroise, as they were allowed previous to the provisions made for Municipal lists; provided that a list of such householders, of over 21 years of age, shall be made and sworn to before a Justice of the Peace by two of the Chiefs of the said Village, and delivered to the Registrar of the said County previous to the issuing of the writ; and such list shall have the same effect as to them as the Municipal lists have as to other Electors."

He said they had a good school, were well educated and were a people of most decent character and had a good right to vote on their property.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the member for Quebec County (**Hon. Mr. Chauveau**) had proposed to make an exception of the tribe in his county. If there was to be a change made it should be of a general character, and he appealed to the Minister of Justice not to suffer the partial enfranchisement of Indians. The motion must have been moved for some particular reason.

Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU replied stating that he had no object in the matter beyond a desire to restore to these Indians a franchise which they had always enjoyed up to the time of the law providing for municipal lists.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said they had not voted since he had been in Parliament.

Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU said that he (**Hon. Mr. Chauveau**) had been elected by acclamation six times, and therefore the point had not been raised.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: How has it been raised now?

Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU: Because at the last Local Election it had been found that they had no right to vote, not being on the municipal list. He did not advocate this from personal motives, as the Indian vote only amounted to from thirty to forty, whereas his majority when opposed in his contest was over 1,000. The Indians had the privilege of voting when they were far below their present status, and they felt it a great hardship to be deprived of that privilege now.

Mr. BOWN said if amendments were adopted, he should follow with a motion for the enfranchisement of the Indians of