

would support the motion of his hon. colleague.

Mr HOYLES felt much pleasure in being enabled to concur in the observations of the hon. member for St. John's (Dr Carson).—It was as notorious as the sun at noon day, that an increase was required in the number of the members of that House; for, as at present constituted, the whole brunt of the business fell on six or eight individuals.—He was astonished at the opposition of the hon. members for Conception Bay, who, he was sure, did not speak the sentiments of their constituents on this question. It would be doing an injustice to the people not to increase the representatives.

Mr MARTIN would always oppose any remuneration to members, who should, on entering those walls, be perfectly independent, and require nothing of the kind; but if fifteen or twenty shillings per day were allowed to members, with what rubbish would not the House in a short time be filled?—There would never be a difficulty in finding persons ready and willing to represent their own interests.

Mr KENT was desirous of explaining his manifold objections to such a bill coming from such a quarter. His hon. colleague (Dr Carson) said he courted inquiry; and he (Mr K.) was also anxious for enquiry—but the Doctor's memory must be very fallacious if he had forgotten, when he sought for enquiry on a most important subject affecting that House, how his motion had been treated. He (Mr K.) would oppose the bill because he had no confidence in the House, or in the persons who supported the measure. No one was more desirous than he was, to see an increase in the members of the House, but he did not want to see it filled by the nominees of merchants or by government contractors, who would only attend to their own interests. He thought the hon. member who introduced such a measure had assumed a great individual responsibility. He should have adopted the suggestion of his hon. friend (Dr Carson) to submit it to a select Committee in which its principles might be discussed, before it was introduced into that House. He could have no confidence in the present House, while it refused to grant an enquiry into the cases of persons who had no right to sit there. Before such a bill was introduced, the House should pass an act of self-regeneration. If he could purify the House of the contractors, and Nominees, and Insolvents who sat in it, he (Mr K.) would then be the first to support an increase of its members; but he could not now venture on such a measure, when he saw those constitutional guards introduced by the wisdom of our ancestors for the protection of the rights and privileges of the people so wantonly flung aside from paltry, petty, interested motives. He entirely advocated the principles of the Bill but he thought its details very objectionable, as tending to destroy the confidence of the out-ports, which there are many motives to induce them to secure. The representatives of several of the outport districts were nominee members, residing in St. John's; and the whole of the Legislative Council were also residents in the capital, and, therefore, completely identified with its bill in its present shape, as to give the least

interests: how then could he contemplate an increase, which would, in all probability, be made up of nominees. He would like, too, before he assented to such a Bill, to know what was to be the duration of the Parliament. A bill limiting its duration to three years had passed that House, but after a first reading lay slumbering in the Council. Upon the subject of compensation he would observe, that he should not oppose its being given to members from the outport districts—but would never consent to any compensation to the members from St. John's. The comparatively trifling compensation to persons from distant districts, would be a means of preserving that moral influence which the House ought to possess.

Mr CARTER was not disposed to fling the present bill overboard though he would not pledge himself as to the course he should hereafter pursue. When the subject of compensation was brought before the House he would not be afraid to grapple with it. He had the same objections to the details of the Bill as he had urged last year—that the House of Assembly, under its provisions, would soon dwindle into a St. John's corporation. In its general principle he agreed for he should be glad to see the number of members increased, so as to be in some measure, relieved from the responsibility which now attached to him. Though he had several objections to urge against the details of the Bill, he gave the hon. member who introduced it, full credit for the purity and sincerity of his motives. He believed the hon. member had brought it forward to redeem a pledge which he had given on the hustings. He (Mr C.) would not object to a second reading, in order that it might be brought fairly before the House, but he hoped a distant day would be named, to afford him an opportunity of consulting his constituents.

Mr KOUGH said that some hon. gentlemen objected to the Bill on the ground that pay should be given to the members, but he was quite impressed with the conviction that persons would always be found, as heretofore, influenced by honourable ambition alone—keenly to contest for a seat in that house. He was sure that in the district of Conception Bay, gentlemen would ever be ready to offer themselves, equally competent in every respect as the present honourable representatives. It would be a libel on the many respectable independent gentlemen in that important district to suppose the contrary. He confessed his skull was so thick that he could not well understand the objections of his hon. colleague (Mr Kent), who agreed in the principle of the bill, and yet objected to the second reading because it had not emanated from another quarter. He admired such consistency. When the hon. gentleman said he had no confidence in those who supported the bill, he must have forgotten that his learned friend (Dr Carson) in whose views and opinions he generally concurred, had given it his support. If the House would oblige him by turning out all those who did not agree in all his capricious whims and humours, his hon. colleague would then favour the bill with his support. He (Mr Kough) was not so wedded to the bill in its present shape, as to give the least

opposition to any beneficial changes or alterations which hon. members might think proper to introduce in Committee. The opposition to the bill was confined to that house; he was sure, that out of doors, the general opinion was in favour of it, (no, no, from some of the members.) Hon. members might say no, no, but that did not convince him. He had lately been in Conception Bay, and he knew that the respectable inhabitants of that district wished the bill to be supported, because it would afford them an opportunity of returning persons to that House, in whom they had more confidence than their present hon. representatives. He had no objection to naming a distant day for the second reading.

Mr BROWN thought the hon. member would do well to confine such observations as he had just made, to the members for St. John's with whom he came more frequently in contact. Since the opening of the Session, the house had been entertained with the squabbling of the hon. colleagues, Mr Kough pitted against Mr Kent, and Mr Kent against Mr Kough. He (Mr Brown) would say for two of his colleagues and himself that they could meet their constituents with clean hands, and that they had no apprehension in the event of another election of not being returned to that House. He was not sure that some of the hon. members for St. John's could say so much for themselves.

The House then divided, when there appeared,

For Mr Brown's motion—Mr Brown, Mr Kent, Mr Pack, Mr Power and Mr Cozens.

Against it—Mr Kough, Mr Hoyles, Dr Carson, Mr Carter, Mr Martin, Mr Sweetman.

The Bill was then ordered to be printed, and the second reading fixed for that day month, on which day a call of the house was ordered on the motion of Mr Brown.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20.

The bill to regulate the cutting of channels in the ice, in the various ports and harbours of the Island, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to prevent dangerous quantities of Gunpowder from being kept within the town of Harbor Grace, other than in places pointed by law, was brought up and read a first time, and its second reading ordered for Saturday next.

Mr PACK presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Carbonear, praying that the House would introduce a Bill for regulating the streets of that town.—Ordered to lie on the table. The hon. gentleman then moved for leave to bring in a bill to the foregoing effect on Monday next.

Dr CARSON moved that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that His Excellency would submit certain questions relative to the Imperial and Colonial duties for the Island, for the opinion of the law officers, and communicate to the House the result of that opinion.—The motion having been seconded, a committee was appointed to carry the resolution into effect.

Adjourned.