

be in excess of what will be required hereafter, because the work of preparing the first list will be far greater than that connected with subsequent lists. A regulation was adopted in regard to clerks and bailiffs, the allowance of the former being \$2 per day, and the latter \$1.50, with a low scale of travelling expenses.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Can the hon. gentleman give us any idea of the number of days' work that a revising officer will have to perform in an ordinary constituency?

Mr. THOMPSON. I cannot say.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am informed that the work will be likely to occupy fully three months. In many cases in Ontario a single judge takes two constituencies. From what I know, I would propose that at the very least the judge would require to spend sixty or seventy days on the work.

Mr. MITCHELL. This is a very important question that has been raised in connection with the Franchise Bill. A good many people entertain the idea that we are going to have an election this summer. Some people suggest that if the Quebec elections are successful there will be an election certainly. I think we are justified in demanding from the Government that they should come down to the House and submit a statement of the approximate cost of the Franchise Act. It is a right we have before we vote money to have this explanation from the Government. If we are to have an election this summer—and it is quite on the cards—I want to be able to tell my constituents something about the cost of the franchise measure. I do not want to say, as some members say, that it will cost \$1,000,000 or \$750,000, or between \$400,000 or \$500,000, which is my estimate, but we are entitled to obtain a proper estimate from the Government.

Mr. MILLS. I do not think that the Government have any good reason for supposing that the cost of printing the voters' lists will this year be any more than in future years. The list will require every year to be revised; it will be necessary to obtain copies of the assessment rolls because the property very largely changes hands, and ten per cent. of the names will have to be changed. So there is no reason for supposing that there will be less labor this year than last year. It is true that if we had adopted the principle of manhood suffrage, to which our friends in Quebec so strongly object, there would have been less difficulty, because the question as to property would not have arisen. Last year the First Minister had a clause in the original Bill making an appropriation for revising officers. The clause was struck out, and the hon. gentleman said that the Government would acquire sufficient experience before Parliament again met to decide upon the salaries of revising officers. We are now meeting twelve months after the measure was introduced and we are no nearer solving the question yet. There should not be very much difficulty in arriving at what would be a reasonable amount, and how is the Government to arrive at an approximate amount, when they are unable to tell the House the amount of money that this revision will cost. I think when we go to the country we should know what the measure is likely to cost us. The hon. member for Northumberland says we are going to have an election.

Mr. MITCHELL. I merely give my opinion; I cannot tell.

Mr. MILLS. I do not know that the Government can tell any more than the hon. gentleman, and I am inclined to think that if they do go to the country we will not only have a provincial election in Quebec but in Ontario, where we have a great many questions which will come up as issues between the Government and the Province of Ont-

ario. There is the question of their interference with provincial legislation, the boundary question, the plundering of the territories belonging to the Province. These are all important and interesting questions, and they show the great necessity of having further information upon the item now before us.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I hope the hon. gentleman, when he considers the question of the salaries of the revising officers, will not forget those who have to deal with the unorganised townships, because in my constituency the revising officer has to originate the lists in some forty townships. Now, whatever may be the effect of the Franchise Act in other constituencies, it will give us in that constituency a fair election for the first time. We have never had a fair one yet, by reason of various influences used by hon. gentlemen opposite, and for the first time we will have under this Act a fair legitimate election. The revising officers there will have an extra amount of work to do which will be fairly considered when the salaries of these officers are fixed.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Is the revising officer there a Mr. Mahaffy?

Mr. O'BRIEN. Yes, and he has done his duty to the satisfaction of opponents as well as friends. There has not been a single complaint against his conduct or the way he has done his work.

Mr. MULOCK. Can the hon. gentleman give me any idea of the remuneration of the revising officer of the North Riding of York?

Mr. THOMPSON. I cannot.

Mr. MULOCK. It is stated that the clerk will be allowed \$2 per day. What does that mean? The Act of Parliament went into force on the 1st January, 1886, and I suppose from that time until the final revision he is more or less engaged.

Mr. THOMPSON. No; the clerks do not commence work until long after that time, and I should be surprised if they were to charge for collecting information. It is for actual work while under the instructions of the revising officer.

Mr. MULOCK. Who is to be the judge of the work they do?

An hon. MEMBER. The judge.

Mr. THOMPSON. There will be the certificate of the judge, but that may not be conclusive.

Mr. MULOCK. When do the bailiff's duties begin and when do they end.

Mr. THOMPSON. As a general rule they will begin at the time the first court is held, and will only continue while the courts are being held, and while they are posting and serving notices under the direction of the revising officer.

Mr. MULOCK. If the revising officer does his duty in enquiring who should go on the lists, he will have to do a good deal of travelling. Is any provision to be made for travelling expenses while collecting this information and attending the courts?

Mr. THOMPSON. Certainly not for getting information, but I cannot say whether he will be paid for necessary travelling expenses in attending courts.

Mr. MITCHELL. My county is about 100 miles long by 100 miles broad, and I must say that if the hon. gentleman's statement is correct, it is rather extraordinary treatment on the returning officers. I think that this item should either be allowed to stand for further information or passed with the understanding that on concurrence full information shall be supplied so that we may be prepared