

April 21, 1874

considered this system was a greater engine of corruption than bribery at elections.

He denounced the ballot system as being an un-British and a sneaking way of recording votes, and pointed out the evils which existed in connection with this system of voting in the United States. He maintained that the suffrage should be the same in every Province, and that every man should sit in Parliament upon the same conditions.

Mr. DOMVILLE thought the Act a charming one, and complete in every respect. He spoke as a member elected by ballot. He objected to the clause providing for an election becoming void upon corrupt practices being proved against either the candidate or his agent, and to other clauses relating to treating, hiring of vehicles, et cetera. He objected to the Act in another respect, and that was the great expense it would entail upon the country.

Mr. YOUNG thought the government had faithfully fulfilled their promise in the bill now before the House. He believed that bill would receive the warmest support of the members of that House and the country generally. He was prepared to hear the hon. member for Cumberland (Hon. Mr. Tupper) attack the Government on the matter of simultaneous elections; but, if they ought to be satisfied with any particular part of the bill, it was that.

He could not agree with the objections of the member for Cardwell (Hon. Mr. Cameron) against voting by ballot, and he thought that on the whole the ballot was a far preferable system to open voting. He thought they should have the true feeling of the voter, however poor he might be, provided for. It had been tried in a great many of the principal countries on the continent, and had been found successful. It provided in a great measure against bribery and corruption. He showed the fallacy of a vote being in the nature of a trust given into the hands of a voter by the community, and the community having the right to know how the individual voter executed his trust. That he characterized as a philosophic fallacy of John Stuart Mill.

The bill of the Minister of Justice (Hon. Mr. Dorion) was, he considered, a very close approximation to a perfect measure. He denied that the system of open ballot, as practised in the States, enabled bribery and corruption to be practised more extensively than under the open system. He confessed to a lingering feeling for the nomination day, where the views of the candidates were freely and openly expressed to the constituents, although in many places the violence that was indulged in formed a strong argument against it. He congratulated the Government on the excellent measure before them, the main features of which had been asked for by, and would be very satisfactory to, the country when it passed—as it would pass, by a large majority. If it did not secure purity of election to the country it could be only the fault of the people themselves.

Mr. FARROW was in favour of the bill as a whole, although with some of its details he did not exactly coincide. He denounced the conduct of the hon. member for York North (Mr. Dymond), who had fired his darts at a member on that side of the House and censured his taste in reading his private correspondence. He upheld the speech of the member for

Cumberland (Hon. Mr. Tupper), and he thought that that gentleman was right in regard to the Dominion suffrage. He thought the ballot was good, and especially commended the clause of the Minister of Justice as to simultaneous election.

He thought, however, that the bill did not go far enough. He would like to see a clause inserted preventing any Minister or member of the Ontario Government from going round doing “missionary work”. (*Laughter.*) They talked of bribery; he would rather have \$100,000 spent against him than he would have a speech from the member for Bruce South against him. (*Laughter.*) He was in favour of abolishing the public nominations, of compulsory voting, and of women’s suffrage. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. OLIVER hoped that the Minister of Justice would not do away with the nomination day. It was a question of very great interest, as it brought the electors of all sections of an electoral district together, which was attended with very beneficial effects.

He opposed universal suffrage, and hoped the Minister of Justice would not take away a property qualification for candidates. The ballot, he contended, provided against intimidation being used against the employees of large firms, and was therefore beneficial.

On the motion for adjournment of the debate, moved by **Mr. MILLS**,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he did not wish to press the House, and, after the very friendly criticism by hon. gentlemen opposite, he did not feel it would be just to those who were not present that evening to press the second reading of the bill that night. He therefore agreed to an adjournment of the debate for the purpose of giving those not present the opportunity of speaking on the subject.

The House adjourned at 11 o’clock.

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NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr. BABY—Address—An Act passed by the Legislature of Ontario, in the 36th year of Her Majesty’s reign, entitled An Act respecting the Municipal Loan Fund debts, and respecting certain payments to Municipalities, together with copies of all correspondence between the Governments of Canada and Ontario on the subject of the Municipal Loan Fund; and of all Orders in Council respecting the allowance or disallowance of the said Act.

Mr. JETTÉ—On Wednesday next—Address to His Excellency the Governor General for copies of all the correspondence in the possession of the Government relating to the sum voted in the first session of 1873 to meet the costs of an appeal to Her Majesty’s Privy Council, with reference to the constitutionality of the Common School law of New Brunswick, passed in 1871, and a statement of all sums paid for the purpose above mentioned.

Mr. MILLS gives notice that after the House goes again into Committee to consider his resolution in reference to an amendment of the law relating to the constitution of the Senate, he will move the following resolutions:—*Resolved*,—That it is expedient to