

tee composed of gentlemen concerned in the lumbering trade, and he hoped the House would allow it to pass to a second reading.

**Mr. Bodwell** said the law already made provision for all the House was asked to do.

The amendment was then put to postpone the Bill for six months, which was carried.

### "DUAL" SEATS

**Mr. Mills** moved the second reading of the Bill to disqualify members of local legislatures from sitting or voting in the Senate or House of Commons, and said it was essential to the proper working of representative Government that members should not occupy seats both in this House and in the Local Legislature. It is necessary that the Local Legislature should be composed of persons entirely distinct from the general Government, in order to prevent the Parliament of Canada from making encroachments upon the Local Government. When persons sit in both Legislatures, they have no motive for guarding the Local Legislature from encroachments, and those barriers erected by the Constitution will exist only on paper. Suppose the Minister of Militia has a seat in the Legislature of Quebec while he is here as one of the advisers of His Excellency. He has to advise His Excellency who to appoint as Governor of Quebec, and if he has control of the Legislature in Quebec, how can His Excellency carry out his views, if they are not in accordance with the person who has assisted in placing him in his position. The man who has a position in the Ministry here, and a seat in the Local Legislature, and becomes a Minister of the Crown there, His Excellency becomes a mere puppet in the hands of his advisers. He cannot act in accordance with his own judgment when in the hands of advisers to whom he is indebted for his position. The people of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have declared against dual representation, and a large portion of Quebec have done the same. In Ontario, but one person in twenty has a seat in both Legislatures; about thirty-nine fortieths have declared against it. It was his intention, if this Bill passed a second reading to refer it to a committee for any improvements that might be necessary. He now moved the second reading of the Bill.

**Mr. Chamberlin** was entirely opposed to the Bill, both as a question of time and a question of principle. They had something better to do than to be tinkering at the

constitution any more than there was necessity for. They came here to give the country some practical legislation. The tariff wanted remodelling, and every department of the Government required to be re-organized. There was an immediate necessity for a great amount of practical legislation, and they should wait for a more convenient opportunity to deal with mere theoretical grievances. The best sort of legislation was that which was pursued in England, which was not to remedy imaginary, but practical and well ascertained evils. When any evil is ascertained to exist then the statesmen of England think it necessary to apply a legislative remedy. Have we experienced any such practical evil working of the law in this country? Have we had time to find out whether any evil will arise from members holding seats in the General and the Local Legislatures? Cannot we afford to wait until some future session to ascertain whether that law works well? Every man who has studied history carefully, especially the history of Federal Governments, knows that the greatest danger to their stability lies in the amount of jealousy and friction likely to grow up between the Local and the General Governments. This is especially seen in the history of the United States. That country has suffered in consequence of the powers exercised by the Local and the General Governments being ill defined, and it has resulted in imposing upon that people a constitution that their forefathers would never have assented to. We should avoid this jealousy rising up against the General Government. By having some members in the Local Legislatures, we will promote a spirit of harmony between them and the General Government. They will carry our views into Local Legislatures, and they will bring us back some ideas acquired by mingling with their orators. This will tend to ward off continual collision between the Local and the General Governments. The people should decide the question of dual representation, every constituency for itself. There are very few men so ambitious and industrious that they will care to sit in both Parliaments. Therefore, it was best to leave the people to decide the question, and there was no doubt but they would decide wisely and well.

**Mr. Johnson** said if a man attended to his duty in Parliament he would have but little time to devote to the interests of the Local Legislature or Local Government. If a man had too many irons in the fire, some of them would get cold before he got them out. A