

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 30th May, 1894.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 130) to amend the Act respecting certificates to masters and mates of ships.—(Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

WARDEN OF THE KINGSTON PENITENTIARY.

Mr. MULOCK asked, Has the Warden of the Kingston Penitentiary recently paid over to the Government any moneys? If so, how much? When, on what account?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Yes. I may say by way of explanation, first, that it is customary at all the prisons for the officials to be allowed to purchase articles, and to pay monthly or at stated intervals, subject to the approval of the department. Dr. Lavell has paid since the month of August last about \$100 in the purchase of supplies which he obtained from the prison, in small amounts, principally for work done at the prison, and things of that kind. In addition to that, he has paid \$474.66 on account of former purchases, the greater part of which had been allowed to stand, in consequence of an application by him to the department to be allowed fuel in consideration of the expense of the house and appurtenances which he has to keep up. The decision of the department being against his application, he has paid the amount standing against him.

THE DOMINION FRANCHISE.

Mr. LAURIER. I notice with some regret that the hon. gentleman has not yet introduced his proposed measure with regard to the franchise. Can he give us some hope that we may have it to-morrow, as this is a matter in which we are greatly interested just now?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. If the House will indulge me, in consideration of the importance of the question, I will state briefly what the features of the Bill are. I shall have to ask the forbearance of the House as to the introduction of the Bill, because its details will be somewhat complicated, but it may be of some public service that I should state to-day what the principles of the Bill will be, in order that they may be understood by the House and by the public, and in order that the information may be given to the revising officers in advance of the introduction of the Bill. We propose important changes in the Franchise Act, and without making a speech upon them, or giv-

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ing reasons, I would briefly state that we propose to adopt as the basis of the franchise the franchises of the various provinces of Canada. We intend to propose, however, that the disqualifications which have been enacted by provincial legislatures shall not apply to persons who would otherwise be entitled to the franchise. We propose further that the electoral lists shall be prepared and revised from year to year by the Dominion revising officers as at the present time. We propose to deal with the subject of multiplex voting in a reasonable way, as we think, not adopting the principle that each man shall have but one vote, but adopting the principle that something more than the mere temporary qualification which the voter may possess at the time he went on the various lists, shall be possessed; that is to say, a property owner having a property qualification in more than one riding shall have a vote in more than one riding, and so if a person has a qualification in more than one riding he shall have a vote in more than one riding, &c. These are the principles of the measure, but inasmuch as it will be necessary to work them out by a careful comparison with the provincial enactments, I propose to take a little further time in the preparation of the Bill.

Mr. LAURIER. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him if he proposes any departure in the existing law as to the time when the lists are to come into operation? Under the existing law the lists are not to come into force until the 1st of January. May I ask whether he deals with that feature?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. We propose to make the time somewhat later in beginning the revision, and the lists will come into force as speedily as we can expect them to be prepared.

Mr. LAURIER. May we expect the production of the measure within three or four days, or within a week?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I hope to have it ready within a week.

BRIBERY AND DISFRANCHISEMENT.

House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 6) to disfranchise voters who have taken bribes.—(Mr. Weldon.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 16,

Mr. JEANNOTTE. (Translation.) Mr. Chairman, I think the deposit should be increased. The fact is, I understood there was an argument under which that deposit was to be increased from five hundred to one thousand dollars. I move that the words "one thousand dollars" be substituted for the words "five hundred dollars."