

The House then went into Committee on the bill, **Mr. MILLS** in the chair.

Mr. BOWELL suggested that for the third returning officer in counties, where there were three ridings, the Warden of the County should be appointed, or that the matter should be left with the government of the day.

Hon. Mr. DORION said that the opinions of the hon. member for Hastings North evidently differed from the opinions expressed by the hon. member for Cumberland on this subject. With regard to the suggestion that the Warden should be the returning officer, he was, as a general thing, one of the most likely men in the county to be a candidate.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD suggested the appointment of some respectable person as returning officer who should act in that capacity during good behaviour.

After some discussion the first clause passed,

Hon. Mr. DORION promising to take into consideration Hon. Mr. Mitchell's suggestion to add to the parties eligible to be returning officers the name of the Clerks of the Peace in New Brunswick.

Clause 2, as to the day of nomination, passed,

Hon. Mr. DORION amending it, at the suggestion of Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, so as to provide that all nominations in Manitoba should take place on one and the same day, not necessarily that upon which the nominations in other Provinces take place.

Clauses 3 and 4, as to the contents and forms of the writs, were passed without amendment.

To clause 5, defining who were ineligible as election officers,

Hon. Mr. DORION made an addition to provide that any persons, otherwise qualified to act but having been found guilty of any offense or dereliction of duty under this act by any competent tribunal, should forever be disqualified from acting in such capacity.

Clauses 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, compelling certain parties to act as returning officers or clerks, and relating to the endorsement of returning officers' appointments of election clerks, duties of election clerks, and their oaths of office, were passed without amendment.

On clause 11, relating to the qualification of voters and polling days,

Mr. BOWELL stated it was impossible to poll three hundred votes at one polling station within election hours.

A long discussion followed as to this, and at 6 o'clock, when the House rose, the clause was not carried.

AFTER RECESS

SECOND READING OF PRIVATE BILLS

The following bills were read a second time:

To incorporate Lamb's Water-Proof Gum Manufacturing Company. —**Mr. SCATCHERD**.

To amend an Act to incorporate the Maritime Warehousing and Dock Company. —**Mr. DOMVILLE**.

To amend an Act to incorporate the Canada Mutual Marine Insurance Company. —**Mr. DOMVILLE**.

* * *

THE ELECTION BILL

The House went into Committee on **Hon. Mr. DORION'S** Election Bill.

The 11th clause having been passed, with some trifling amendments, the 12th clause was amended by striking the County of Bonaventure from the constituencies in Ontario and Quebec excepted from the rule of simultaneous nominations. The clause then passed.

The 13th, 14th and 15th clauses, relating respectively to provisions for unforeseen delays, proclamations by the returning officer, the publication of the proclamations and the places of nomination, were passed without amendment.

On the seventeenth clause, which fixes the time of nominations between 12 and 2 o'clock,

Mr. KIRKPATRICK asked the Minister of Justice to consent to extend the time from two hours to two days. To prevent sham nominations, he proposed that candidates should make deposits.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL moved to add to the clause, "during which the Returning officer shall hold an open Court for that purpose". He said he desired to raise the whole question of public nominations on this clause. He was in favour of public nominations.

Mr. WILKES thought that in the abolition of nomination day they would lose an opportunity of letting the people hear both sides.

Mr. YOUNG contended that if the public nominations were abolished, the time for receiving nominations should be extended.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Montreal West) was in favour of private nominations.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron South) moved to amend the clause by adding the words, "which said nomination shall be an open and public nomination".

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said he would accept the amendment in lieu of his.

Mr. COLBY thought it would be a great disappointment to a large majority of the people of that part of the Province of Quebec from which he came to lose the public nominations. Frequently a non-resident candidate would not be known to many of the voters in his constituency if the latter did not have an opportunity of seeing him on nomination day.

Mr. PATERSON was in favour of public nominations.