

that session would leave the sum \$469 due him.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). If I understand Mr. Speaker aright, a member is entitled to full sessional indemnity, less the number of days absent upon which the House has sat ?

Mr. SPEAKER. Yes.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I thought it had been ruled that a member should be here thirty days.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No ; the thirty days refers to the session.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the statute is clear upon that point, and my own opinion with regard to it has been confirmed by the Department of Justice.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is understood that we agree to this on the score that it is, as Mr. Speaker represents, a fair debt, and that he, in his capacity as an officer of the House, will see that it is so.

To pay O. Durocher and J. O. Durocher for the privilege and authority to manufacture and to use in connection with the Dominion elections a certain invention described in the Patent of Canada, No. 30784 as "Ballot slip"..... \$2,500

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Has this ballot slip been made use of yet ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, in the late by-elections.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Was it used in Antigonish ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, and in Verchères.

Mr. LAURIER. It was also used in Quebec West, and it lost the election to the man who had the majority of votes.

Mr. FRASER. I would suggest that the Government should see, before the election takes place, that the same kind of ballot paper is used all over the Dominion.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. There was nothing wrong in the Antigonish papers, was there ?

Mr. FRASER. There may have been nothing wrong in the papers, because the voters were right. But I see no reason why all the ballots could not be prepared here, where they ought to be prepared. I can see that the printing might have to be done elsewhere, but the paper should be uniform all over the Dominion, so that there would be no chance of anything wrong being done in that respect by any of the returning officers.

Mr. MONTAGUE. There is a law on the statute-book, which was passed last session, at the instance of the hon. member for West Ontario (Mr. Edgar), regulating the form of the ballot. It is impossible to have the bal-

lots printed here, owing to the short space of time between the nomination and polling. As to the paper, I will discuss that with the Queen's Printer ; but I understand that that is regulated by statute.

Mr. FRASER. The paper should be uniform, otherwise the party in power might use paper that would give them an advantage.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, that would be a violation of the law.

Mr. FRASER. Then, the law is violated every day.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). What is the nature of the paper ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. The main portion is black, and there is a round space in white opposite the name of each candidate, in which the elector is instructed to mark the cross.

Mr. LAURIER. This ballot was introduced by the Act of last session, and the first result of its use does not conduce to the opinion that it is an improvement on the old system. There is this much to be said for the old system, that the people understood it. We had four or five general elections under it, it was tested in the courts, and the people came to understand it thoroughly. In one of the elections held under the new system, the ballot acted so as to lose the election to one of the candidates who had a majority of the votes, because some of the electors had marked their ballots according to the old way. I understand that according to the law, the cross has to be made in the blank space.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Some of the electors, instead of making the mark in the circle opposite the name of the candidate, made it in the space where the name was printed. Under the rulings of the Supreme Court, these are good ballots. In my riding some of them were unfortunately counted against me.

Mr. LANGELIER. A good many of the voters, instead of putting their cross in the blank space intended for it, put it in the space under or over the name of the candidate. It was understood when the law was passed in the House last year that the cross would be put only in the blank space provided for that purpose, and the deputy returning officer in Quebec West understood the matter just as it had been understood in this House. When the recount took place, the judge adopted the ruling of the different courts, and decided that the ballots in which the crosses were made outside of the blank space, that is, at any other place which would have been good formerly, would be good now. The law was clearly understood that in whatever place the cross was made, provided it was quite clear for which of the candidates the elector intended to vote, the