

said, Act mentioned or awaiting payment in respect of any such contract or having held any such contract or awaited payment as aforesaid, within twelve months previous, or who, holding or having held any such contract, within twelve months thereafter subscribes, furnishes, gives or promises to give or furnish any sum of money or consideration whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, by himself or by the agency of another person on his behalf, to any person whomsoever, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable, at the discretion of the court, to a penalty of not less than one thousand dollars, together with imprisonment, for a term of not less than one month and not more than twelve months; and in default of payment of the penalty so incurred, the offender shall be imprisoned for a further term of twelve months unless such penalty be sooner paid; and the offender shall, in addition, forfeit all right and claim to recover any payment in connection with such contract."

The object of the amendment is this: It is to prevent contractors who have contracts twelve months before the Elections, or twelve months after the Elections, from providing, either directly or indirectly, any funds in order to secure the election or return of any member of Parliament. The clause, as framed by Dr. Wilson, is drawn in such a way as to secure the object I have in view, which is to prevent contractors from providing, during the time they hold their contracts with the Government, any sum of money, directly or indirectly, for the promotion of Elections. That is the object of the Bill, which is a sound one, and one which should meet with the approbation of the House. Under these circumstances, I think the Bill should receive the assent of the House. I need not go into any details; I desire to avoid such a course; but I am sure the First Minister will see that the object I have in view is to secure the purity of Elections, and the larger the election funds are the greater is the danger of poisoning the electoral body. There can be no doubt that if you provide a remedy to prevent large contributions to election funds, there is a chance of our having pure Elections. I propose this Bill in the interests of the public, and with the good intention of its being passed and afterwards carried into effect. If this measure does come into effect, we shall have pure Elections. We know that our election expenses are small, and they should be so. I need not say that we have had, in the Province of Quebec, cases of persons who have said they control the Local Legislature. That has been a boast made in the public papers. It should not be so, and I think if the House will pass this measure, it will have a beneficial effect. I do not say it will cut off all the evil, but it will, to a great extent, deter the improper expenditure of money, as offenders will be liable, not only to a money fine, but to imprisonment. The amount of \$1,000 would be a small penalty to a man who is making thousands upon contracts—he would laugh at the money penalty; but the punishment by imprisonment will have a deterrent effect, and will certainly prevent others from following such examples. I believe the measure is a good one in itself, and that there is not an hon. member who does not feel that it is one which should be adopted.

Mr. LANDRY (Montmagny). The remarks of the hon. gentleman induce me to say a few words, and I will speak them in English. The object of the Bill is to prevent all fraud in relation to contracts involving the expenditure of public money. The hon. gentleman believes that, if the Bill becomes law, the election expenses will be very small, and that we will have fewer Elections in future. Our election expenses are always small, except perhaps those in the county of L'Islet. I have here a statement of the expenses paid by the hon. gentleman in his last election, and I intend to prove that his Bill, if it passes and becomes law, will never prevent him from doing what he has already done. The Bill is rather late in being introduced. It should have been passed last Session, before the hon. gentleman was returned by a minority of the electors. I have here, I say, copies of the hon. gentleman's election expenses, and I see that while he was canvassing his county he met poor children and poor widows, and was very generous.

Mr. CASGRAIN.

Mr. CASGRAIN. To what extent?

Mr. LANDRY. Not to a very large extent—I suppose to the extent of his means. I find by one of the items that he gave a \$10 bill for a bazaar, and 25 cents for a young lad who had taken his first communion that year. The hon. gentleman was so pleased that he could not do otherwise than give him 25 cents. I will now read it in French as it is in the return:

FEDERAL ELECTION IN L'ISLET, 20th JUNE, 1882.

Statement of the personal expenses of the candidate, Philippe Baby Casgrain, Advocate, of Quebec, as furnished by him to L. Z. Duval, Esq., of St. Jean Port Joli, R. O., according to section 123 of the Federal Election Act:—

Trip from Quebec to St. Roch and return.....	\$5.50
“ “ “ L'Islet.....	4.50
Board at Achille Anctil's at St. Jean Port Joli.....	3.00
Trip there, 75c.; board for myself and horse, \$2.50.....	3.25
Alms to the Goudreault woman sick a-bed.....	1.50
Refreshment in carriage.....	0.75
Telegrams.....	1.65

I suppose that was 50 cents for each brother—

Pierre Blanchet, carter, for his trip—a certain price agreed upon (<i>a bargain or job</i>).....	\$10.00
To the same, lodging and breakfast at his house on the return trip.....	1.00
Goudreault, sick a-bed.....	0.50
Child, first communion, gift.....	0.25

That is a gift to a young lad on his first communion: 25 cents. Then he went to a concert at L'Islet during the election: \$1.70. Then he gave to the curate, or parish priest, for a charity concert, \$10—

Dinner and supper at Jules.....	\$1.00
Paid to Achille Anctil for himself, horse and buggy during election, balance.....	25.00

Here is an item; expenses for travelling:

St-Jean and St-Cyrille.....	\$5.00
Another man receives.....	2.00
Another man named Nazaire Caron.....	3.00
Dussault and Brothers; bottle for him.....	1.00

Now, the total of these expenses, as given by his agents, amounts to \$230.75, and I find that there are a few accounts that have not been inserted in those general expenses. I hope, Sir, that the hon. member, if he wants to have a pure election, will not lose his time by attending concerts or giving charity to a sick woman. I hope that he will observe the law himself, and that he will add an amendment providing that candidates should not go to such expenses. I hope the Bill, when it comes before the Committee, will receive all the attention it deserves. I hope that we will make such amendments as will render the Elections purer than before, not only in respect to contracts involving the expenditure of public money, but also in respect to Elections involving the expenditure of the candidate's money.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will give the full amount of the expenses. That is the question now before the House.

Mr. LANDRY. No; the question before the House is the motion to go into Committee.

Mr. CASEY. If the hon. gentleman will lay the paper on the Table, as the Rules require, we will see what the expenses are. I ask the hon. gentleman to lay it on the Table.

Mr. LANDRY. As a schedule to the Act I suppose. I hope it will be translated into English for the use of hon. members.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. In looking over the Bill, I notice that the Committee have retained a feature of the original Bill which induced me to speak against it before, and I believe, to vote against it. The first clause of the Bill reads: