

the nominations, which not infrequently had an undue influence on the result. Some provisions should be made for the prevention of crowding at the polling booths, where he thought, it would be well that only one elector should be admitted at once. It was provided that a certain number should be present at the opening of the ballot boxes, but he saw nothing which prevented a crowd forcing themselves in and obstructing business, or perhaps destroying the ballot papers. This should be provided for.

He also thought the provisions regarding the detection and punishment of offenses under this law were a little defective. There was no possibility of convicting a man of a misdemeanour by a jury under the Corrupt Practices Act, and he thought the punishment should be less in order to make it punishable in some way. He would substitute a fine of say \$100 or \$200 for each offense, giving the fine to the prosecutor, which, he thought, would make justice much more speedy and much more certain. He would also give the prosecutor the power to hold the person charged to bail, so that there could be no possibility of evading the result by leaving the country, but he would allow the defendant to call upon the prosecutor to give security for costs in case of the charge being disproved.

He thought it would go a long way toward the prevention of ballot stuffing if the Returning officer initialled every paper before sending it to the Deputy Returning officers, as well as the envelopes in which they were enclosed, and requesting the return of all those not used or spoiled along with the envelopes, and the ballot papers deposited in the box. With these few exceptions, he entirely approved of the measure of the Government.

Mr. TREMBLAY (in French) spoke at length of the necessity of a new election law, on account of the outrages which might and had been perpetrated under the operation of the late Act, as was evidenced by the treatment which he had received after the Charlevoix election, as well as the unfair and corrupt manner in which voting had been carried on in the county of Chicoutimi.

Mr. CIMON rose to contradict Mr. Tremblay, but was called to order.

Mr. TREMBLAY continued to condemn public nominations, and the approval generally of the present measure. He suggested a number of amendments in the details, such as the preparation of the ballot papers so as to prevent fraud and to enable people to make use of them. He also sustained his Ballot Bill of last year, which he proposed to present again—not in opposition to Hon. Mr. Dorion's measure, but in order that any good which it might contain, might be incorporated in this bill. He explained the points in his own bill, which were the printing of the respective colour for each candidate on the ballot paper, by which, even if the voter could not read, he would be able to detect any fraud in the filling up which might be committed by the returning officer. He also showed up the abuses of the present system of preparing voters lists, in which he suggested a number of amendments.

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MANITOBA LANDS

The SPEAKER said he was informed that Hon. Mr. Laird wished to withdraw the Bill in reference to Manitoba Lands.

Hon. Mr. DORION said that though we had no such rule as prevailed in England, still he thought this measure came within the spirit of our practice.

The Bill was accordingly withdrawn.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

AFTER RECESS

The debate on the Election Bill was resumed.

Mr. CIMON contradicted some statements of the member for Charlevoix (Mr. Tremblay).

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said it was very satisfactory that the Hon. Minister of Justice, in presenting a bill of this comprehensive character, said he would be glad to receive suggestions in regard to it. There were some four or five elements in this bill the proper dealing with which only would ensure its success. He was in favour of the ballot, and had witnessed the advantages which were to be derived from this system of voting. The principle of simultaneous polling which had been in use for some years in Nova Scotia, he also approved of. He also entirely approved of the clauses relating to bribery and corruption; but, when the bill was in Committee, he would make some suggestions for their slight amendment. In reference to the clauses relating to the franchise he begged to call the attention of the Ministry to the fact that it would be exceedingly unwise for the superior Parliament of Canada to delegate to the minor powers the right of from time to time regulating the franchise, which was to settle the right for them to take their positions in the House.

When the bill was in committee he would move an amendment to the effect that the Local legislatures should not control the seats of gentlemen who might be candidates for seats in the Parliament.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK thought the matter should receive the greatest attention at the hands of the House. He was of opinion that on the whole the proposal of the Minister of Justice with regard to the franchise was the best that could be adopted. He thought, if minors and felons were allowed to vote, that women should not be prohibited from voting; therefore he considered the 40th clause of the bill should be struck out. The clause with regard to the abolition of property qualification met with his approbation. He was favourable to the abolition of the nomination day, but he considered that a clause might be inserted to provide against sham nominations. He suggest that, in order to prevent sham nominations, the candidate should be required to pay a portion of the expenses of the election.

He also was of opinion that the cumulative system of voting might be adopted with advantage, and he supported the ballot, believing it would do away with many evils attendant on elections. He could not believe that the ballot was either a sneaking or an un-British mode of voting. On the whole he would give the bill his