

Hon. Mr. SCOTT replied it was not intended to make any change this session, nor to enforce the ballot. He learned from the gentleman at the head of this department that they had all the volunteers wanted at this time.

RECIPROCITY TREATY.

Hon. Mr. CARALL enquired—have the Ministry any information which they can place before Parliament regarding the negotiations understood to be in progress at Washington for Reciprocal trade between this country and the United States of America?

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER replied it was not in the power of the Government to say anything about the position of the negotiations at Washington.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER moved the second reading of the bill, from the Commons, to provide for the trial of Controverted Elections, which he explained was to exchange the present tribunal, the Parliamentary Committee, for the ordinary legal tribunals of the different Provinces. The bill was framed upon the principle of the English and Ontario Acts, which had worked well so far. The Superior Court would act for Quebec, the Courts of Error and Appeal, Queen's Bench and Chancery for Ontario, the Supreme Court for N. S. and N.B.; for Manitoba, Queen's Bench, and British Columbia, Supreme Court and Civil Justice.

He believed the amendments made would meet all the requirements of the people, and that this law would constitute a valuable and needed reform.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL admitted the bill would make an improvement on our present system of trying Controverted Elections. No doubt there had been the evils of delay, heavy costs and partial decisions under the Committee system, while decisions might hereafter be looked for within a reasonable period, and free from partisanship, which our Judges were above. But it might be found that petitioners would be put to as much expense as formerly. Experience would decide, however. On the whole the changes would probably result in turning candidates from such courses as might subject them to trial before these Courts. He was glad to see this experiment tried, and believed the tribunals provided by the Act were the best possible for the purpose in view. He was much pleased to find the Judges were not to be persons appointed *ad hoc*,

whose decision might be open to suspicion occasionally, but the members of the Bench. The Election Court in Ontario was composed of the three Senior Judges, who had a great deal of work thrown on them by the Ontario Act. He proposed to amend this bill by providing that, in case the present Judges have more work than they can get through with, any Judge in Ontario may be directed to assist in disposing of the cases on hand. He had the assent of the Minister of Justice to this change.

The bill was read a second time, amended in the above sense in Committee of the Whole and reported.

BILLS FROM THE COMMONS.

Several bills were received from the Commons, with amendments, which were concurred in, including those affecting the Crime of Libel Bill. Hon. Mr. CAULBACH explained the latter, saying the bill was thus assimilated to the Ontario Act. Costs were to be collected as in the case of debt.

SECOND READINGS.

The following bills were read a second time:—

To enable the Great Western RR. Co. to further extend and improve their connections.

To extend the powers of the Dominion Telegraph Co.

ADULTERATION.

A bill was received from the Commons to impose License Duties on compounders of spirits.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER explained it was to prevent the adulteration of good drink and drugs. The Minister of Inland Revenue would, under it, have officers employed to test articles suspected of adulteration and the various compounds. The officers would be men of skill, which would furnish the public a safeguard in the matter of the consumption of all those commodities.

Hon. Mr. ALEXANDER highly approved of the measure, which would be highly acceptable to the country.

Hon. Mr. RYAN asked if there would be an appeal from the decisions of analysis in certain cases, pointing out the possibility of erroneous judgments in country or remote districts.

After some discussion on the subject Hon. Mr. RYAN expressed his cordial approval of the objects of the bill, urging,