

estate or pecuniary qualification, or that the aspirant should be a citizen by birth or naturalization. That defect ought to be remedied. With reference to the clauses respecting the closing on election days of places in which liquor was sold, he thought that the effect of this in British Columbia in some cases would be that taverns would have to be closed, to the inconvenience of travellers, who were sometimes 250 miles from a polling place.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE said he was sorry to be unable to comply with the request of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, to withdraw his amendment on the paper, The property qualification of the candidate was something on which the elector could rely, was a guarantee to some extent that, as he had an interest in the country, he would vote on matters affecting property and the interest of the public in a manner safe and conducive to the public interest. But he had other reasons for opposing certain provisions of this Bill. He feared that if the principle of a non-property qualification for candidates was assented to, they would soon have universal suffrage proposed. He did not propose in his amendment any amount of qualification for candidates, as he considered that now Confederation had taken place, and some of the Provinces in the Dominion contained but a small number of individuals who could qualify if the amount was a large one, it might be advisable to reduce it.

Hon. Mr. ALEXANDER said that while he agreed that they might express their opinion with regard to the Bill, they should remember that it had been very carefully prepared by Government, and had been thoroughly discussed in the other House, and not make any amendment to it. He believed that the members from the Province of Ontario would unite in offering no amendment to the Bill.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE approved generally of the Bill, and the more so that it was largely copied from the election law of Great Britain. He expressed his pleasure at the doing away with public nominations, and approved of the ballot. He could see no reason for exacting a money or property qualification from candidates for Parliament. He thought, however, that a uniform franchise should be adopted for the whole Dominion and universal suffrage. (No, no.) He held that education and intelligence prevailed so generally among the people of Canada that we should adopt that franchise.

Hon. Mr. READ expressed himself opposed to universal suffrage, and thought

that a man who lived a few years in a country like this should be able to earn enough property to qualify him to vote under the law which had hitherto existed. He thought the Bill was on the whole a good one, but he took exception to the ballot.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH thought that there should be a property qualification for both candidates and electors. He did not approve of doing away with public nominations, and he thought that the amount of the deposits when nominations were made should be raised to \$100, and that it should be made essential that all candidates should be British subjects, which this Bill did not do. With reference to the ballot, he said that he thought if there was any country in the world in which the electors were free from corrupt influences it was Canada, and he believed that the more political opinions of persons, both candidates and voters, were publicly expressed, the more likely we were to have pure legislation.

The discussion was continued by speakers on both sides for a considerable time.

Hon. Mr. FLINT pointed out that the first clause of this Bill provided that sheriffs and registrars should be Returning-officers, but made no provision for a third Returning-officer in counties in which there were three ridings. He thought this clause should be amended, as it left too much in the hands of the Government as it stood. He very much approved of the Bill generally.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN agreed that they should not make any great alteration in the Bill unless in some particular in which a change was urgently required. He still felt unconvinced as to the advantage to be gained by secret voting, for in this country we had no large class which was so much dependent on others that they could not vote as they saw fit. He thought that voting by ballot would result in a great amount of hypocrisy and deceit, inasmuch as it would enable men to promise to vote one way and then vote another. Nevertheless, as the House of Commons was in favor of this system, and as it had been adopted in other countries, it might be well to try it here. He did not, however, anticipate any good result from the experiment. He hoped the Government would meet the views which the hon. gentleman from Prince Edward Island, who had first spoken, had expressed.

Hon. Mr. REESOR approved of the Bill as a means of protecting voters from