

Mr. BLAKE. It will be met by giving the Government the nomination of two members of the Board by one way, and in the other way it will be met by cutting up the license districts into a smaller form than is intended by the Bill.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. As regards sub-section b, I propose to let that stand over.

Mr. AMYOT. We cannot allow that sub-section a to pass without putting in a protest. We do not want our Judges to be degraded by taking municipal offices. We are on our side unanimous on that point. The Government complains of the burden of nominating those officers. Let them take those who are nominated by the Local Governments, and they will be relieved of that duty. We have one Registrar in each county; why not take them? Why impose on the Judges the obligation of nominating these parties—of being pressed daily and nightly by the petitions of those who want licenses? We want our Judges to remain above the people. They occupy a high position, but that position has been lowered by making them Election Judges. That was a step too far, and we do not want to take another such step. I do not see why the Government, when we all ask that they should not be appointed, should press this system. The Registrars have in their hands the interests of ourselves and our families. They give ample securities for the faithful discharge of their duties, and why not appoint them? Is there some political interest?—some interest of any kind, which will force and press us to appoint them? Therefore, I ask the Government, in the name of my friends, and in my own name, not to press the nomination of the Judges to these positions.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not think the hon. gentleman was listening to what was said or he would not have made these remarks. He says the gentlemen from Lower Canada are unanimous, but some of them have risen to say that they do not agree with the hon. gentleman.

Mr. AMYOT. But he is a Grit.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Then, in the second place, the hon. gentleman did not hear the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Hall) taking an exception somewhat like the hon. gentleman has done, and though the clause has been adopted there will at the same time be afforded every opportunity for reconsideration before it goes through the Committee.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). Will the hon. gentleman explain why, in the counties of Chicoutimi, Saguenay, &c., the Government may appoint two Commissioners? I suppose it is on account of the size of the counties.

Mr. McCARTHY. Yes, that is the reason. It will be impossible for the Judge to perform the duties of the office in those large counties.

Mr. BLAKE. Although he resides in those districts?

Mr. McCARTHY. It would be impossible for him to do so in the earlier seasons of the year.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I would ask the Government if it is the intention, in those counties in Ontario which extend over a large area of country, and comprise many municipalities, to divide them into districts, or allow the whole county to remain under the control of one Board of Commissioners? The county of Grey is a very large county. There are three ridings in it, and the distance from one end of the county to the other is very great; and if people from different parts of the county should be obliged to go to the place where the Board meets they would be put to a great deal of inconvenience and expense. Under the present system, the Boards are in the different districts, and no difficulty is experienced. I should like to ask the Government if it is

their intention to form districts uniform with the electoral districts as they now exist?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman will see that the Government can establish as license districts, either counties, electoral districts, or cities. If a county is too large, each electoral district may be made a license district.

Mr. LANDERKIN. If the electoral districts are made license districts, who will be the Commissioners in them? The same Board as the county?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Judge, as I take it, will belong to the Board, and so will the Warden. The Government may appoint one or more Commissioners, if experience should require them. I have no doubt that the County Judges or the Superior Court Judges can make arrangements so that their ordinary judicial business will fit in with their license business. There need be no difficulty about that, and the Judges, I have no doubt, will gladly accept the appointment. It will be one means of giving them a substantial addition to their income; which is something. We have just had a discussion to-day that shows that in the Province of Ontario, even the Superior Court Judges think so much of the allowances they receive for going on Circuit, that they are very anxious to retain them. So I take it that the Judges will be very glad to accept this appointment. I do not mean to say from sordid considerations alone, although that is an element in all such matters, but from patriotic motives. I judge that they must be travelling over the electoral districts in their counties, so that they will be able to make their ordinary business work in with the special business.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman's statement raises a new question altogether. I did not understand that these were to be paid officers. There is no provision in the Bill for their payment that I know of. I would ask if the hon. gentleman proposes to make the acceptance of these positions compulsory, because there is no penalty provided in the Bill? I would also ask, in case of a vacancy or of absence from any cause, whether he proposes to provide for a succession to a vacant office during the year?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not propose to suggest a penalty just now, because I think it is quite out of the question to suppose that a Judge will refuse to accept; and if a Judge dies, his successor will be appointed. If a Warden dies, his successor will be elected.

Mr. BLAKE. Suppose a Warden declines to act, as I think it is very likely many will do?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not think so.

Mr. BLAKE. I think it is very likely, from what some of them have said.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I wish to ask if the hon. Minister has assurances that the Judges will accept. I have reason to believe that some of them will decline—not because they do not sympathize with the object of the Bill, but because they have already, to my personal knowledge, refused to act in a similar capacity.

On section 6,

Mr. BLAKE. Out of what fund are the salaries of the Inspectors to be paid?

Mr. McCARTHY. In the first place out of the fees, and possibly also from the penalties.

Mr. BURPEE (Sunbury). I would like to be informed whether Commissioners will be appointed in counties or districts where the Scott Act is in operation?

Mr. McCARTHY. Provision is made that where the Scott Act is in force there will still be Commissioners and Inspectors to see that the Scott Act is enforced.