

April 28, 1874

Hon. Mr. DORION said it was with a view to preventing any influence being used on the voters.

The clause was carried.

Clause 75 was carried, after certain explanations as to the Acts which would subject a candidate to have votes struck off his record.

Upon clause 76,

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD contended that impersonation should be made a misdemeanour.

Hon. Mr. DORION said the difficulty was to get a person to complain against a man who had been guilty of personating. Under this Bill, the Judge who was trying an election case, if he found that a person was guilty of impersonating, could summon the man before him and fine him without any information being laid.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said that if the offence was only to be punishable by a fine, they would have persons clubbing together and then paying the penalty.

Hon. Mr. DORION said that he was willing to make the offense a misdemeanour if the House thought that desirable. He moved an amendment to the clause rendering the offense punishable by imprisonment as well as by fine; and the clause, as thus amended, passed.

Clause 76, relating to impersonation and its punishment, was adopted, it being provided that the punishment should be a fine of \$200 or six months' imprisonment.

Clause 77 was passed.

The 78th clause was amended by providing that a corrupt act by an agent shall not render a candidate ineligible, unless such act shall have been done by the agent with the consent of the candidate.

All the following clauses down to the 89th inclusive were adopted without amendment.

Upon the 90th clause,

Mr. COLBY suggested that the latter portion of it, allowing a candidate to furnish entertainment to electors at his residence, should be struck out.

Hon. Mr. DORION said this and several other preceding clauses had been copied out of existing Canadian Acts. He was quite willing to strike out the portion of the clause referred to.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD instanced the case of a farmer assembling a number of persons at his house when there was no inn near, to confer with him as a Committee with regard to his election. Such an assembly would be a meeting of electors and if the portion of the clause under discussion were struck out, the candidate would not be able to give these men their dinner, and they might not be able to get it elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

After some further discussion,

Hon. Mr. DORION agreed to let the clause stand as it was.

The clause then passed.

Upon the suggestion of **Mr. HARVEY**, the next clause was amended.

All the following clauses, down to 96 inclusive, were passed without important amendment.

Clause 97 was allowed to stand.

Clauses 98 to 137 inclusive passed with verbal amendments.

A section was added to the clause repealing any former Acts requiring a real estate qualification for candidates for the House of Commons, and providing that no such qualification be required in the future.

The various schedules attached to the Bill were then passed with verbal amendments, **Hon. Mr. DORION** promising to adopt a suggestion for the addition of an oath by an elector whose vote is a duplicate vote that he did not know of and had not connived in the original personation.

The Committee rose and reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The House adjourned at 12.30 a.m.