

by compelling them to give an account of every cent earned. For these reasons I move that:

Sub-section 6 of section 3 of the Franchise Act be amended by striking out the words "three hundred and fifty dollars" and substituting therefor the words "two hundred and forty dollars."

Also, that sub-section 6 of section 4 of the same Act be amended by striking out the words "three hundred dollars" and substituting the words "two hundred and forty dollars."

In the last Ontario Act the franchise was extended to all wage-earners who had an income of \$250, but even in that case, I think there is a considerable number of laborers who are excluded, and I believe that it was the intention of the Act to extend the franchise to every industrious citizen.

Amendment negatived, and Bill reported.

INTEREST ACT AMENDMENT.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved second reading of Bill (No. 132) to amend the Revised Statutes respecting interest (from the Senate). He said: The object of this Bill is to fix the rate of interest which judgments shall bear. The question has arisen lately in the North-West Territories, inasmuch as the Interest Act provides the rate of interest which contracts shall bear when no other rate is provided, but judgments not being strictly of the nature of contracts, it had been held that there is no provision as to judgments bearing interest. Provisions of doubtful validity have been made with respect to this subject by Provincial Legislatures.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Under the third section a change would be effected and judgments would bear interest at 6 per cent., which formerly only bore interest at 5 per cent. I do not think, however, that a man has a right to allow a judgment to remain and bear interest at a high rate.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. It is only proposed to take the second reading to-night and to go into Committee at a future day.

Mr. IVES. Judgment with interest will be calculated from the date of the serving of the process.

Mr. DAVIN. This Bill will meet a want greatly felt in the North-West Territories, because we cannot collect overdue taxes with interest at more than 4 per cent.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 126) to amend the Summary Convictions Act, chapter 78 of the Revised Statutes, and the Act amending the same (from the Senate).—(Sir John Thompson.)

REGISTRATION AND POSTAGE OF LETTERS.

House resolved itself into Committee to consider proposed resolutions (p. 469) providing for the rate of registration and postage of letters.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. HAGGART. The object of the first part of the resolution is to enable the postmaster to charge a registration fee on any valuable matter which may be sent through the post office. I propose to change the second part of the resolution to the effect that the postage of local or drop letters shall be 2 cents per ounce in cities and towns where there is delivery by carriers. That leaves the Act the same as it is now, except in cities and towns where there is delivery by letter carriers. It assimilates our law to that of the United States where the rate is 2 cents on similar letters, and to that of the United Kingdom where the rate is one penny. I propose to change the second part to read

Mr. BRIEN.

so as to affect only periodicals issued less frequently than at intervals of one month. This allows monthly periodicals to pass as free as newspapers do, and to make specimen newspapers entitled to be sent at one cent per pound. It provides that no periodical may be carried free of postage under the 28th section of the Post Office Act, if it is published at intervals of more than one month. It leaves the law the same on certain printed matter, and on packages of seeds and matters of cognate description, namely, one cent for each four ounces. Printed manuscripts, proofs, lithographs, photographs and documents partly written and partly printed, not being deeds, policies of insurance, and miscellaneous, may be sent at one cent for each two ounces. This makes the postage on this class of matter the same as it is in the United States and Great Britain.

Mr. JONES (Halifax.) This resolution increasing the postage on drop letters will bear hard on cities, and it appears to me to be unnecessary. I do not see upon what principle the hon. gentleman is called upon to double the rate on the postage of drop letters. It is true that in some instances the letters are distributed by the carriers, but in most cases merchants and citizens have private boxes in the post office and the carriers are not called upon to distribute the letters. Business men now send their circulars through the post office at one cent, and this class of matter does not involve any increase of expense on the post office. I think that the Postmaster General should consider this, for he will see that the reason he gives for increasing the rate in places where there are letter carriers would not apply where persons have private boxes in the post office. I know that this increase of rate in drop letters is very unpopular in the cities of the Dominion, because it is looked upon as unnecessary. It is very unfavorably received by the business community generally.

Mr. DAVIN. I consider that the Postmaster General has taken from this clause everything that was objectionable in it. I am very glad indeed that this impost on the monthly periodicals, and therefore upon literature, has been removed. In regard to the objections of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Jones), I wish to point out to the Committee that if this objection has any force it will regulate itself. If, for instance, the Postmaster General finds that the rate of 2 cents is too much upon drop letters where letters are sent round by the letter carriers, the merchants will not avail of this means of communication and the revenue from this source will so decrease as to cause the Postmaster General to return to the old rate. On the other hand, if the merchants continue to use those sealed circulars at the 2 cent rate it will prove that it is a fair rate, and that anyone who is familiar with the present condition of our postage system and the amount that it costs the country will be very glad if there is an adjustment in this respect between the expenditure and the service rendered. I do not think that there is anything whatever in the objections of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Jones).

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew). I confess that I do not quite understand the first part of this resolution, which has reference to registered matter. It would seem to imply that the postal officials might be at liberty to register anything that came into the office, and to charge for registration if it were supposed to contain valuable matter. I should like to enquire whether this is a change in the law, and whether the opinion I have in reference to it, that postmasters may register, if they choose, anything that goes into the post office and charge for it, is correct?

Mr. HAGGART. It is a new feature. In most countries it is compulsory that all valuable matter shall be registered. In some countries, if it is not registered, the matter is forfeited, in addition to a heavy fine being imposed. Where it appears evident to the postmaster that a letter contains