

animals, and to amend chapter 172 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, intituled "An Act respecting Cruelty to Animals."

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. BROWN. I am prepared to explain the nature of the Bill, but perhaps it would be more convenient to the House to explain at a later stage.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Now.

Mr. BROWN. As it seems to be the desire of some hon. members that I should explain the nature of the Bill, I desire, in very few words, to say that the object is to prevent cruelty to animals, not already provided for by law, such as cock-fighting and dog-fighting, but mainly the cruel sport of trap-shooting, where pigeons and small birds are often confined in boxes in cold weather for the sake of enabling men to engage in this sport, ostensibly for practice in shooting, when they could have every opportunity of distinguishing themselves in that particular by the use of clay pigeons without cruelty to innocent birds. I am sure I have the sympathy and support of a large majority of the members of this House in introducing this measure. I know that I am sustained by all the humane societies of the Dominion of Canada, and I hope that when this measure comes to be discussed, as it will be at a later stage of its progress, the strong sympathy of this House will be given in its support. I am certain that there is no education so demoralising for the young as that which leads them to treat with indifference any kind of cruelty to dumb animals.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### ELECTORAL FRANCHISE.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 4) further to amend the Revised Statutes, chapter 5, respecting the Electoral Franchise. He said: I will merely call attention to a few of the features of this measure, and will explain it more fully at a later stage. It is substantially the same Bill as was introduced last Session at an advanced period and deferred until this year, partly because the time at the disposal of the House did not warrant the taking up of the Bill, and partly because the printing of the lists was being proceeded with in the Government Bureau; and the Bill was unnecessary until this year in so far as it would apply to the lists being printed. The scheme proposed by this Bill for the revision of the lists is that, immediately after the 1st of June, the revising officer, availing himself of the sources of information to which he is directed to refer by the present statute—the electoral lists, the assessment rolls, and information of that kind—is to proceed with his revision, and he is to make supplementary lists of voters and of the names to be struck off the voters' lists—the supplementary lists giving the corrections—the additions to, and the subtractions from the list as sent to him from the Government printing office. These supplementary lists are to be sent to the Queen's Printer and printed and returned to the revising officer. The officer is then to post them up and fix a day when all parties interested shall be heard. Then the revision is to take place by inserting the corrections which are made in the list in the Government printing office. The supplementary lists having in that way been fixed by the revising officer, are to be sent to the Queen's Printer, and the whole list is finally to be struck off and distributed in the manner provided by the present Act. Another provision of the Bill is that the list, as then established, is to be final as to the qualification of voters, and a further provision is that the polling districts shall be sub-divided, so that from time to time they shall not exceed 250 voters in all. The present statute says 300. In addition to that, the form of the list of voters is simplified very materially, so as to curtail expense.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

Mr. BROWN.

#### BILLS OF EXCHANGE, CHEQUES AND PROMISSORY NOTES.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 5) relating to bills of exchange, cheques and promissory notes. He said: The object of this Bill is to render uniform in almost every particular the laws throughout the Dominion with respect to these contracts. The law under this Bill will be uniform in every particular, except as regards statutory holidays, in respect of which special provision is to be made as regards the Province of Quebec. I may say that the Bill is principally the codification of the existing law relating to bills, cheques and promissory notes, and that the changes which are made in our law on these subjects are in the direction of making it uniform with the English Statute law. The changes thus made will render our law similar to the English law, excepting in two or three unimportant particulars, and the principal one of these is the preservation of the present system of payment when the last day of grace falls on a Sunday or statutory holiday. Our existing provision is that in such a case, the bill or note shall be payable on the following day, while under the English statute it is payable the preceding day. In that respect, this Bill proposes to continue our present system. I may mention, briefly, for the information of the House, the alterations in the common law which the Bill proposes to make. The first is that:

"Unless the contrary appear on the face of the bill, the holder may treat it as an inland bill."

I presume it will be more convenient to the House that I should merely mention the changes without making any comments or entering into any explanations. The next is that:

"A bill may be made payable to two or more payees jointly, or it may be made payable in the alternative to one of two, or one or some of several payees. A bill may also be made payable to the holder of an office for the time being."

The next feature of that kind in the Bill is that:

"When a bill contains words prohibiting transfer, or indicating an intention that it should not be transferable, it is valid as between the parties thereto, but is not negotiable."

"A bill is payable to bearer which is expressed to be so payable, or on which the only or last endorsement is an endorsement in blank."

"A bill is payable to order which is expressed to be so payable, or which is expressed to be payable to a particular person, and does not contain words prohibiting transfer or indicating an intention that it should not be transferable."

Further changes are:

"Where a bill expressed to be payable at a fixed period after date is issued undated, or where the acceptance of a bill payable at a fixed period after sight is undated, any holder may insert therein the true date of issue, or acceptance, and the bill shall be payable accordingly."

"Provided that where the holder in good faith and by mistake inserts a wrong date, and in every case where a wrong date is inserted if the bill subsequently comes into the hands of a holder in due course, the bill shall not be voided thereby, but shall operate and be payable as if the date so inserted had been the true date."

"The drawer of a bill and any endorser may insert therein the name of a person to whom the holder may resort in case of need, that is to say, in case the bill is dishonored by non-acceptance or non-payment. Such person is called the referee in case of need. It is in the option of the holder to resort to the referee in case of need or not, as he may think fit."

"When a bill payable after sight is dishonored by non-acceptance and a drawee subsequently accepts it, the holder, in the absence of any different agreement, is entitled to have the bill accepted as of the date of first presentment to the drawee for acceptance."

"Where a bill purports to be endorsed conditionally, the condition may be disregarded by the payer, and payment to the endorsee is valid whether the condition has been fulfilled or not."

"A bill payable on demand is deemed to be overdue within the meaning and for the purposes of this section, when it appears on the face of it to have been in circulation for an unreasonable length of time. What is an unreasonable length of time for this purpose is a question of fact."

"Where the holder of a bill, drawn payable elsewhere than at the place of business or residence of the drawee, has not time with the exercise of reasonable diligence, to present the bill for acceptance before presenting it for payment on the day that it falls due, the delay caused