

proposed simply for the purpose of withdrawing from returning officers the exceptional power which gave them the liberty of declaring any candidate ineligible. Let them do the duty which the law assigned them and leave to the proper tribunal, which he hoped would soon be established for that purpose, the duty of trying whether a candidate was qualified or not. (*Cheers.*)

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) thought the member for Bruce South (Hon. Mr. Blake) was mistaken equally with the gentleman he professed to correct, and he certainly could not have read the bill or he would know that it did the very thing which he said it did not. He read the provision from the bill to prove this. He agreed entirely with the intention of the bill, but the intention was not consistent with the wording of the bill. He agreed that proper notice of the disqualification ought to be given.

He believed, however, that the bill was in no way inconsistent with the measure of last session, and he had prepared an amending provision, which he intended to submit to the House when in committee, that votes given in favour of a disqualified candidate should not be thrown away unless the disqualification were notorious and well known to the voters. He was in favour of the second reading of the bill, but thought it should be amended in committee in the way he had indicated.

Mr. SAVARY thought the member for Cardwell (Hon. Mr. Cameron) was mistaken in the view he had taken of the result of the proposed measure, and in any case he thought a measure on which three hon. gentlemen differed certainly ought not to pass into law. He believed that the measure would practically repeal the Act of last session. It was one attempt to destroy the result of that Act by a side wind. He thought the measure should not be adopted hastily, and certainly the effect of the bill could not have been well considered when there was so great a difference of opinion on this subject.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) said the object of the amendment he proposed was that if proper notice of the disqualification of a candidate were given, then the votes given in favour of that candidate would be thrown away.

Mr. COSTIGAN expressed his pleasure that the member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) should have stated himself in favour of the principle of the bill of last session. He had been taunted last session by hon. gentlemen opposite with having introduced a measure to answer the purposes of the leader of the Government, therefore it was a great consolation today to hear those gentlemen expressing themselves in favour of the principles of his measure of last year. He did not think the bill introduced would attain the object proposed.

Mr. BODWELL said the only ground of opposition against the Costigan bill last year was that it did not affect all the provinces similarly. He was in favour of one law for the whole Dominion as regards Dual Representation, and he hoped the member for

Bothwell would extend the provisions of his bill so as to apply to the whole Dominion alike.

Mr. LANGLOIS approved of the intention of the bill and suggested an amendment to the effect that the Returning Officer should not permit the nomination of a former member of the Local House, unless he should produce there and then a certificate from the proper officer that he had resigned the seat disqualifying him, and so prevent a disqualified candidate from being put in nomination.

Mr. JONES said a bill ought certainly not to be allowed to pass unless the legal gentlemen of the House at least could agree as to its effect, and the measure ought never to have been introduced in such a shape as admitted of such a diversity of opinion.

Mr. MACKAY thought the House had already decided against Dual Representation, and thought the Returning Officer ought to be able to state to voters whether a candidate was eligible or not. The bill before the House was not sufficiently clear.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD (Pictou) maintained that the member for Bruce South (Hon. Mr. Blake) was incorrect in stating that the first clause of the Costigan bill was not impugned by the present measure, and that the two measures were inconsistent. He agreed with the member for Cardwell (Mr. Mills) that, as a rule, the Returning Officer should not have the power of determining what candidates were eligible, but there were cases in which he must, from the very nature of things, have and exercise that power.

The intent of the law was to prevent any interference in any way whatever in a Dominion election by a member of a Local House. If such measures as this were to be intruded, it might become necessary to prevent disqualified persons from sitting in the House by the infliction of a severe fine on such persons; but some mode ought to be adopted which would prevent an infraction of the law. The object of the promoters of the present bill seemed rather to protect the breaker of the law than the vindicator of the law.

If a member of a Local House desired to become a candidate for Parliament there was not the least difficulty in proving that he had resigned his seat in the Local House, and the facilities in this respect being so great no danger could arise from giving power to a Returning Officer to state whether the candidate was qualified in this respect.

The bill was then read a second time.

HALIFAX HARBOUR MASTER

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a message from the Senate to the effect that the Bill to provide for the appointment of Harbour Master at Halifax had passed that House without amendment.