

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(From the Head Quarters.)

ELECTION BILL RE-COMMITTED.

(Continued)

THURSDAY, April 14.

Mr. Botsford.—I doubt the efficacy of present checks to Executive influence in this Legislature. In England the excise and custom officers are excluded, not only from the House of Commons but the Peers. There are 14 officials in the present House, (name them). Well there are the Attorney General, the Provincial Secretary, the Surveyor General, Messrs. Hayward, Gray, and Montgomery, members of the Government, and Messrs. Taylor, Read, the Speaker, Barbaree, Stiles, Needham, Williston and Dr. Gordon, holding offices under it.—Thank God I hold no office, I had one and I threw it up, and I should not be reminded of it, because I pursue an independent course. The Judges of the common pleas are in the same position as those of the Supreme Court, and both should be excluded or neither. What is the distinction? (Provincial Secretary—one is paid and the other is not.) Whenever the government is pinched it is among these officials it finds its majority. The position and salary of the Government members depends on the voice of this House, and when necessary they will spare no influence to preserve them.

Surveyor General.—The inference to be drawn from the last speech would be that the Government was always doing wrong, that offices had been acquired in some grab game and was kept by undue influences. I do not pretend, sir, to be rich but I am independent, and am ready to throw up my office whenever the country is dissatisfied or I am dissatisfied with the action of the Government. I feel, sir, that my salary is no gratuity, I give the Country full value in my services for all that I get.

Mr. Needham.—I hold no office under Government, I never asked one and never got one. I received my appointment from the law commission and was well entitled to it, I work sixteen hours a day to discharge its duties and expect to get paid for it. I took up an independent course before I was elected, brought it with me when I came here and stuck to it ever since, I didn't commence it within the last three weeks. I think I am a little more independent now than ever, and should not have been worked in among the Government employees. I go to enlarge the number of representatives in order to secure the independence of this House, and to make assurance surer I shall vote for this amendment, though I scarcely think it necessary.

Mr. Johnson.—It is not necessary to allege or prove unfair influences or practices on the part of the Government or officers, it is quite sufficient to refer to the human nature common to us all. We have six members of the Government here, three Deputy Treasurers and one Clerk of the Peace, these votes must be for the Government.

Mr. Smith.—This amendment is more comprehensive than I would propose, still I shall support it.

Hon. Col. Hayward.—The Government have prepared and introduced this Bill with a single and sincere desire for the good of the country, but they have no wish to resist any proper amendment. I myself on reflection doubt the advantage of the extension of the franchise to leaseholders proposed in it, and am disposed to think I shall vote to strike out the provision. I shall oppose the amendment before you, because I have not seen any corruption and do not fear any. I have had the honor to be a Judge of the Common Pleas Court in my own County for a good many years, and have tried some very important causes. Some of my judgments have been highly complimented when they were brought before the bench of the Supreme Court, and the Judges have said I had acquitted myself with great ability, and I'll tell the Committee how I did it. I have invariably disregarded all technicalities, told the Jury I addressed myself as an honest com-

mon sense man to honest men of common sense, bound to do justice between the parties and that we had nothing at all to do with points of law. I never received a single shilling for my services as Judge. The law is bad enough in all conscience, but the lawyers in the courts and in the Legislature make it a great deal worse, to bring more grist to their mills, (immense applause and laughter). There is more truth than poetry in it gentlemen I do assure you.

Mr. Barbaree.—A member of the Legislature who holds office has no easy or enviable place it. He is bound to regard the interest and wishes of his constituents, and if he considers his office of any value he cannot be unmindful of the wishes of the Government. I do not think the public business is at all benefited by the departmental system. I was clerk of the Peace when I was first elected to this House. I have since received the office of Clerk of the Crown, and have been re-elected. No attempt direct or indirect, has ever been made upon my independence by any member of the Government, but still I shall vote for the amendment, because I cannot but feel that the situation of a member holding office is very embarrassing.

Attorney General.—The amendment is a matter of the most complete indifference to the Government, and is entirely for the consideration of the House. It cannot even be insinuated that the present Government have in any way attempted to influence the conduct of gentlemen holding office under it.

Mr. McLeod.—I regret that I cannot agree with the amendment, but I am satisfied the people are the best judges who should represent them. I would go to expunge the first section altogether. If a Bishop may sit up stairs, why not a priest below. I oppose the amendment as an unnecessary interference with the rights of the people.

Mr. Hatheway.—I shall vote for the amendment, although I would prefer something more specific. People should not be left to audit their own accounts, and this these officers do if they are sent here. I hold, sir, that according to the principles of Responsible Government parties holding office should support the Government I would look for such support and exact it.

Mr. Harding.—Where the offices are such that the duties cannot be discharged by Deputy, those who hold them should certainly not be here; I should prefer a specification of the officers to be excluded.

Mr. Williston.—I shall support an amendment specifying the officers, not this indefinite one.

Mr. Kerr.—I cannot support this amendment because it is too general and sweeping, yet I am decidedly in favor of the principle of excluding paid officers of the Government from this House. It is abundantly clear that under what we have as Responsible Government, responsibility is no where to be found. The financial statement brought down the other day by the Provincial Secretary involved the Government in no responsibility, it was brought down by him not as a member of the Government, but as a mere member of the House.—There can be no doubt of the influence of the Government over members holding office, nor that it affects the distribution of patronage in the Counties. As to the officers themselves these must be times in which bread will be on one side and conviction on the other; surely it is not unreasonable to require that officers should be in their offices. There is a degree of delicacy and reserve in every question of compensation, and of investigation into the accounts of officers holding seats here which is disadvantageous to the public service. It cannot be pretended that there is the same freedom of enquiry, and the same measure of justice as if the parties were not here. If a member should be at all exact and scrupulous on an audit committee when the accounts of officer members are before it, he is certain to be punished for it in some matter affecting his County. I am decidedly opposed to salaried officers holding seats here, for the further reason that by and by, and perhaps soon, this influence may become dangerously great, Deputy Treasurers, Clerks of the Peace, Supervisors of Roads, all

contractors for public works, and Revenue officers should be excluded, and though it is not likely to be adopted, I should like to see the officers of the European and North American Railway Company made eligible to have seats here.

Hon. J. Montgomery.—If this amendment shall be adopted no man of ambition or ability will in future accept the office of Magistrate, for even these are excluded by it.

Provincial Secretary.—There can be no such responsibility as some imagine, unless the initiation of money grants be surrendered to the Government, and I as a member of the Government am willing to accept it and take the responsibility.

Capt. Robinson.—I am opposed to this amendment, though I would support the exclusion of revenue officers.

Mr. Cutler.—I believe it is absolutely necessary to purge this House. The Crown has two voices for the people's eye. The House is responsible to the Government, not the Government to the House, or the people.

Mr. Macpherson.—I voted for the Speaker although he is a Deputy Treasurer, and for constancy's sake I must vote against the amendment.

Mr. Earle.—I am perfectly satisfied with the section of the Bill.

Mr. Taylor.—The Government have never attempted to influence me, nor have I ever been spoken to on any occasion. I have never varied a hair's breadth from my conviction of what was right.

Mr. Pickard.—For heaven's sake let us have the question, and stop this eternal talk, talk, talk.

Messrs. Barbaree and Smith said that on consideration they found the amendment carried the principle of exclusion further than they thought for or approved of. It would exclude even Justices of the Peace, and they could not therefore support it.

The amendment was then put and lost, only 8 voting for it.

[The House resumed—received a message from His Excellency—attended him in the Council Chamber—sundry Bills were assented to and the House returned, when after the report from the Chair, the Election Bill was re-committed]

Mr. Johnson again moves the amendment he had previously withdrawn.

Provincial Secretary.—This amendment is a direct restriction of the legitimate voice of the people. If it is carried I shall move the addition of several other officers.

The Speaker.—The Revenue officers in this Province are no more like the revenue officers in England than the Government of England is like that of China. If we exclude at all we should exclude every officer who is removable at the pleasure of the Government, however paid. I should vote for this but shall oppose the amendment and every similar one.

Provincial Secretary.—Why exclude Supervisors of Roads. A member is never appointed now. The appointments are annual, and no member would accept them—go back to his constituents every year, and stand four elections in each Parliament. It is mere clap trap to make it appear that the Government desires to select Supervisors from the House.

Mr. Needham.—I voted for Mr. Cutler's amendment but shall oppose this one. I like the broad principle where we have it altogether but dislike it split up in this way.

Hon. Mr. Montgomery.—This amendment would be most oppressive, it would shut out the most competent men in the country from the public service in this House.

Mr. Porter.—We shall have to give up all the common sense of the House and the country to the theories of the opposition. I shall oppose the amendment.

Hon. Surveyor General.—This amendment is undoubtedly very patriotic, and wholly suggested by great public considerations, nevertheless, particular legislation for particular and personal purposes has been attempted, and successfully attempted in former times, and it may be tried again, aye, and it may be tried now.

Amendment put and lost, 11 for, 24 against.

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All Sorts of Paragraphs.

COMPLETELY SOAKED.—Jones says he went home one night with an extensive brick in his hat, and not being desirous of calling down the wrath of Mrs. Jones, concluded after some reflection to get into bed without waking her. He succeeded as he thought, pretty well in so doing but after laying some time he imagined that Mrs. J. might smell his breath and so concluded to turn over.—"I had but fairly got over said he, "when my wife sung out—Jones you stupid old fool, you need not have turned over—*you'r drunk all the way through!*"

"Bill, I wish I had so much gold, that I would take a seventy-four gun so p loaded down with needles so deep that if you put in another needle, she'd sink—and all these needles to be worn out makin' bags to hold my pile."

Bill threw his crownless hat upon the pavement with indignation, and exclaimed:—

"Darn it, why don't you wish for *sumthin* when yer undertake it! I wish that I had so much as yours wouldn't pay the interest of mine for the time you could hold a red-hot knitting needle in your ear!"

"What do you use to make yourself look delicate?" said one young woman, with an eruption on her face, to another who looked like one of the departed. "Why," said she, "sometimes I eat slate pencils and chalk, and then for a change drink vinegar and chew green tea. When these fail I lace tighter and wear the thinnest soled shoes I can buy."

PUT HER THROUGH

Has fortune frowned my honest friend!
Don't hang your head so low;
This is no time to falter now,
Up! strike another blow!
Don't sit and groan and grunt and tell
What you have tried to do,
But place your shoulder to the wheel,
Strain nerve! and put her through!

AN EPIGRAM.

Nature, regardless of the babbling race,
Planted no beard upon a woman's face;
Not Mechi's razor's, though the very best,
Could shave a chin that never is at rest.

A country surgeon, who was bald, was on a visit to the house of a friend, whose servant wore a wig. After bantering for some considerable time, the joocular doctor remarked—
"You see how bald I am, and don't wear a wig."

"True, sir," replied the servant, "but an empty barn requires no thatch."

"Indeed, you are very handsome," said a gentleman to his mistress.

"Phoo, phoo," said she, "so you'd say if you did not think so."

"And so you'd think," he answered, "if I did not say so."

A doctor and a poet quarreled; an indifferent person was applied to, to settle the dispute, when the latter made the following reply:—

"You are faulty, both; do penance for your crimes; Bard, take his physic—doctor, read his rhymes."

A rural visitor, describing the many strange and wonderful things he saw in New York, wind up by saying:—

"We saw the Astor House, the Metropolitan and other hotels, and were troubled to know where the money came from to build them; we paid our Bills and felt relieved on that point."

In one of our courts the other day, the Attorney General proposed to call a witness named Lemon, who he thought, would tell a plainer story than had a previous witness.

"Well," said the Judge, "call up Lemon, and see if we can squeeze any information out of him."

DELICACY.—A modest young lady, on being asked by a gentleman why she had a covering over her "dressing bureau," replied:—
"I don't want to see its drawers."

The greatest "strike" we have heard of lately came off in a ten-pin alley, where a man got a twelve strike by splitting the first pin and knocking down the remaining pins and the boy.

Plough deep, if you wish good crops.