

expenses paid under such circumstances? His right hon. member for Oxfordshire, whose opinion upon the issue of an Act of Parliament was perhaps more shrewdly than that of any other man in the House, suggested an amendment in this provision to prevent colourable payments which might have taken place under its original wording. He proposed that if any candidate for election by ballot his friend were to be desired to pay the travelling expenses of a candidate to pay the actual cost of conveyance incurred in bringing any voter to or from the poll." The effect of this amendment would have been to make bribery should not be bribery. The whole principle of our legislation had been that where the payment was reasonable, so as to enable the electors to vote without improper influence over the voter, there was a case of bribery. But the simple payment of expenses actually incurred had not been held to be bribery by the committee or the law officers. If he was aware, if he knew the law beyond this limit, and sought to make the law too good for itself, they would shock the feelings of the community, and defeat the object of the clause. It was wrong to adopt verbal amendments in the clause to effect that the offer to pay the mere cost of conveyance should be deemed to be bribery; that all such payments should pass through the hands of the election auditor.

Mr. GREER objected to the clause, which he wished to entirely omit, instead of being nullified by the insertion of the words "to or from the poll." He suggested that the clause to bring the voters up to the poll; and if the voters would not take the trouble to exercise their constitutional privilege, they were virtually self-disfranchised. If, however, the candidate were to be brought down to the polling-booth, the payments ought not to be made for each voter individually, but directly by the candidate himself or his agents.

Mr. H. BAILLIE confirmed what had been stated by his right hon. friend as to the difficulty which the voters of Invernesshire and the Orkneys had to encounter in attending their elections. He said that it was necessary to travel 20, 30, and even 40 miles to reach the inland. They could not cross those seas in open boats, and it was the practice for the candidates to go by steamers. The expense of conveying the voters was the same with the electors of the Western Isles and of Invernesshire; and if some such clause as this were not adopted, they would be at a great disadvantage. He did not raise a question of this kind, then, they must have regard to the peculiarities of Scotland and Ireland, as well as to the circumstances of England.

Mr. V. S. SMITH suggested that the Committee should give the present clause, and leave the Secretary of State to bring up an amended one, in accordance with the views which he had that day expressed upon this report. He declined to amend with such a clause as this to prevent bribery. How could they define "the actual cost of conveyance" so as to stop such abuses? If voters had great distances to travel, let them seek advice. Let the Government stipulate that members are obliged to perform to the State at his own charge, and why should the exercise of his franchise form an exception to the general rule? He called attention to the fact that the clause would be at all practical purposes nullified on every point. They talked of abolishing the property qualification, but here was a proposal creating a new and more formidable aristocratic qualification than ever before. It was assessed of very considerable property could contest a county, for the cost of carriage under this system would run on one of the heaviest items in electioneering. He thought that the Government had simply vindicated the sources of its confidence, that this measure should be confined to a mere canvassing Bill.

Mr. Mr. HENLEY denied that the conveyance of voters to attend the polls was the greatest element in the expense of a constituency election. He thought that agency constituted quite a large item.

Mr. REIDW suggested that the clause making it lawful for "any person" to pay the actual travelling expenses of bringing any voters to the poll should be so altered that any candidate by his appointed election agent" should be constituted for "any persons."

Mr. BRADY believed the Bill to be a sham, and contended, in opposition to the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Henley), that at carriage did form a very large item in the expense of a constituency election. He said that he knew that several of his countrymen had expended upwards of £600, in that way one election.

Mr. LOWE said the effect of the clause under consideration would be to legalize bribery. (Hear, hear.) If he bowed that giving a vote for a candidate for a seat in that House was a personal service, he should say it was right that that candidate should not be allowed to receive anything for that service; but if it was a great constitutional privilege for the spectator to appear in the House of Commons by his representative, since he was not permitted to buy votes, he should discharge the public duty of polling for the candidate whom he wished to represent him at his own costs and charges, and if he failed to do so he too discharged his duty. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WHITEHEAD said the right hon. gentleman was entering upon a mistake in supposing that it was necessary to establish a novel principle. It had never yet been decided as to the simple payment of the expenses of a voter attending to the poll was legalizing bribery. He said that, in that thing, so, if the argument of the right hon. gentleman on the member for Kidderminster was a good one, bribery must have been practiced at every election in this country during our time immemorial. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. EYNG contended that by the clause under consideration at candidates at an election might not stand on equal terms. A poor man, though poor, might be able to afford to pay all the necessary legal expenses; but another, possessing great wealth, might say he was determined to try the election, cost what it might, and therefore was willing to spend large sums of money to secure the result of the poll. It would be easy to foresee the result of so unequal a contest. The poor man would retire or be beaten, and the rich candidate would triumph. (Hear, hear.)

Lord H. VANE said in a borough like Kidderminster it might be more easy or proper than to prohibit the contest of conveying voters to the poll; but in counties, where the freeholders were scattered, there was no alternative. It was obvious that great numbers of them would be practically disfranchised if they were not furnished with the means of travelling to the poll.

Mr. HOPE suggested that the risk of the allowance of travelling expenses being used as an instrument of bribery might be prevented by making the payment of such expenses through an impartial medium, rather than through agent of any of the candidates.

Mr. BARROW insisted, on the very principle enunciated by the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Lowe), that the poor or infirm voter ought to be supplied with the means of attending in a position to express his opinions in that House, through the representative of his choice, as well as his fellow neighbour. He said that if the poorer classes sometimes they would ever do away with the necessity of the traders having to travel some distance to the poll, however small they might be, they would thereby secure an extension of the polls, by multiplying polling places, almost as many polls might be required as there were voters. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SPAIGHT contended that the principle of paying cash to the voters in the shape of travelling expenses would be a corrupting influence, and, as far as the counties and Ireland at least were concerned, be ruinous to the candidates.

Mr. GRIFFITH offered to withdraw his amendment, but considerable number of the committee were opposed to that course, and on a division the numbers were :—

For the amendment	70
Against it	165
Majority	—95

The amendment was therefore lost.

Mr. STAPLETON then proposed an amendment of the clauses, making the payment of the travelling expenses of voters at elections of knights of the shire, but not at rural elections, where he contended there was no need to incur such expenses.

The amendment was opposed by Mr. WALPOLE, Mr. BOBBETT, and Sir CHARLES BURELL, who instanced rough scots as those in the metropolis and those of Shropshire, Plymouth, &c., who were scattered in various parts of the country so scattered as to necessitate the conveyance of the voters to the poll almost as much as if they lived in counties.

Mr. CROSSLIE thought the question in dispute was really whether the members of that House were to pay for seats or not; and, considering how hon. members sat after midnight for nearly three months of the year, and often went into the morning, to their own personal inconvenience, it was not too much to ask the constituencies to make some sacrifice in the matter.

Mr. LIDDELL was in favour of legislating for bare travelling expenses, and wished to see an explicit declaration of the equality of such expenses in the Bill.

Mr. CRAWFORD contended that, after the decision in Cooper v. Stale, a House was proposed to be introduced, the committee now interfered to legalize travelling expenses they would reopen the whole question, and put it in the power of any one to make a corrupt bargain with a voter.

The amendment was negatived without a division.

On the motion of Mr. WALPOLE, the clause was amended so as to make it lawful for "any person," to be authorized by an appointed in writing, according to the provisions of the act mentioned Act" (the 11th and 18th of Victoria, chap. 42), instead of "any person" to be authorized originally to pay the actual travelling expenses of *each* voter incurred in bringing any voter to the poll.

Mr. AYLTON moved the omission of the words "to pay to actual travelling expenses of each voter" in the words "to provide conveyance for any voter for the purpose of an election, but it shall not be lawful to pay any money or give any money or give any money or give any respect of his travelling expenses for such a voter or otherwise, except as provided in the Radical interest, because he wanted the poor voters to come to the poll (hear, hear), and the rich gentleman to the poll (hear, hear). There were two people whose interests required protection.

Mr. HUGGENSEN was in favour of legislating travelling expenses provided they were paid on the mileage principle—such as a sailing vessel or a horse and cart, and 10 miles, and expenses for every additional mile, and only voters resident above one mile from their place of polling. Under such an arrangement it would be advantageous to be taken by one candidate over another.

Mr. WALFOLE expressed his readiness to adopt the amendment of the hon. member for the Tower Hamlets (Mr. Ayton) as if for the purpose of saving the expenditure of money to a voter under the head of travelling expenses.

The amendment was not further criticized by Mr. BARROW, Mr. TATTON-BOLTON, Mr. V. SMITH, Mr. JAMES, and Mr. CRAWFORD, and at a quarter to 4 o'clock, when the committee was suspended, was still under discussion.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill was advanced a stage.

The sitting of the House was suspended at 4 o'clock.

The sitting was resumed at 6 o'clock.

THE SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Mr. WILSON asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer



17/11/1961

1871



This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some faint smudges and discoloration, characteristic of old paper. The right edge of the page is dark, suggesting the binding or the next page. There is no text or other markings on the page.

MEETING OF MIDDLESEX MAGISTRATES.

Yesterday a meeting of the magistracy of Middlesex was held at the Sessions-house, Clerkenwell, for the transaction of business relating to the county.

On the motion of Mr. P. N. LAURIE, duly seconded by Mr. ARMSTRONG, the Right Hon. Lord Ebury took the chair.

The first business on the paper was the election of a chairman for the ensuing 12 months, and, on the motion of Mr. ARMSTRONG, seconded by Mr. CHARLES WOODWARD, Mr. LAURIE was unanimously re-elected to the chair, for the 12th time.

Mr. Maude, the deputy clerk of the peace, laid before

Upon the recommendation of the Committee of Accounts and General Purposes, the Court made an order upon the County Treasurer for the payment of bills, salaries, and other demands upon the county, to the amount of £685s. 16s. 6d., and an ordinary county-rate of 4d. in the pound, and a like rate under the Lunatic Asylums Act, upon the County rate and rate of the county. 8 April 1861.

estimated rental of the county, *et al.* against the board of supervisors, *et al.* somewhat lengthened discussion took place, introduced by Mr. G. F. Young, with reference to the dispute between the Court and the coroners as to the disallowance of fees in cases where the Committee of Accounts thought that the coroners had not been necessary. Hon. magistrates stated that it was well known that coroners had settled, for the interests of the public, and that the principle upon which the Court acted was one of false economy. Hon. magistrates said the course taken by this Court with respect to coroners' fees had the sanction of the Court of Appeals. The Court then proceeded to the consideration of the petition of the magistrates to exercise a stronger control over the disbursement of the county expenditure amounting to \$11,000, as

whatsoever might be the importance of the duties attached to the coroner's office. Mr. Young moved that the suggestion of the disallowance of certain fees should not be taken into consideration, and was negatived almost unanimously. The report referred to in the letter from the coroner, the resolution of the Court, and in which that gentleman urged that the Court ought to rescind its resolution of April, 1851, under which these fees were disallowed, and the whole of the fees stopped, since that date ought to be taken into consideration, and as there were no grounds upon which they could be recommended that he comply with Mr. Baker's request. The report stated:—

A letter was received and laid before your committee, addressed to your clerk, from Mr. Brent, the deputy coroner, forwarding by direction of the coroner, Thomas Wakley, Esq., an account sent to him by the coroner, of the fees received by him for the year 1851, and the

the purchase, together with an amount of \$12 1/2c. for a note of the same amount, to be paid by the county, and the balance to be paid by the purchaser; and such charges not appearing to your committee to be included in the above, and the same being paid by the county, your committee is in favor of the bill as amended to the Act of last Victoria, cap. 68, &c., your committee request Messrs. Allen (except solicitors) to prepare and submit a bill for the same, and to be paid by the county rate. The case was accordingly laid on for the next session, and the committee were authorized to refer the bill to the legal authority to order payment of either of the above-mentioned sums, as they might be determined to be just.

The report was signed and brought up by Mr. Peter McArthur Laurie, in the absence, through illness, of Mr. Macdosh, the chairman of the committee.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE COUNTY RENTAL.

THE committee reported that they had received notice to prepare "a bill for the county rate, to be paid by the county, and the balance to be paid by the purchaser for a fair and equal county rate," having compared and finally corrected a basis or standard as

ing, and approved the same, after having objections removed, and the following places in the territory submitted to the Council in special session, to wit: That the sum of \$100,000,000 of stock will be that the county rate will be assessed upon a total increased from 8,427,336½ to 9,166,827½, the difference being 739,491½. The assessment of the Holborn Division, containing the parishes of St. Giles and St. George, Andrew, and St. George, Saffron-hill, &c. the Rolls, and the City of London, is increased by 1,000,000, and increased 22,551½, Faldington, St. Clement, Dame Mary Strand, and the Savoy, is increased by 222,434½; Westminster is increased 105,616½; Finsbury, 135,765½; the River division, 156,770½; Kensington, 124,365½; Edmonton increased 8,994½; Gore, 2,943½; Elthorne, 786½; Spelthorne, 1,747½; Isleworth, 5,725½; extraparcial places, 4,938½. The total of the above is increased by 2,222,434½. The increase of 16,919½ has been deducted, leaving a net increase of 2,205,515½.

Mr. P. N. LAURIE, on behalf of Mr. Kemshead, gave the requisite notice for bringing this matter under the consideration of the Court, and observed that the proposed increase of the ratepayers' rates had been opposed on the ground that it involved an increase of rating, but the principle was exactly the reverse, the greater the amount of rental assessed, the less would the rate be upon the ratepayers generally. The committee had formed their estimate from property returns, and it was as nearly accurate as possibly it could be. It would be discussed in detail at the next general meeting.

The Court passed a vote of thanks to the committee for their labours, particularly to Mr. Kemshead, and also to John Allen, their clerk, who had collected the material for the new standard with great assiduity.

the reports from the prisons contained no feature of public interest.

Motion on various matters, the proposed alterations at Sessions-house, Coldbath-fields Prison, and the proposal the Metropolitan Railway Company to tunnel under the river, &c., were postponed.

A memorial from Mr. Ingall, who for many years has had charge of the warming and ventilation of the Sessions-house, and desired to perform, stating grounds for an increase of remuneration, was presented. It was immediately received, and Mr. VALENTINE KNIGHT proposed an immediate addition to the petitioner's pay, but, on the suggestion of Mr. P. N. LAURENCE, the matter was referred to the Committee for Accounts, &c., to ascertain by what means the remuneration should be increased.

The other business having been disposed of, the Court adjourned.

RAILWAY AND CANAL LEGISLATION.—The following is the special report of the select committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the best mode of securing the prompt consideration of all bills relating to railways and canals, in reference to railway and canal legislation:—1. That all railway and canal Bills be deposited at the Private Office and at the Board of Trade, on or before the 23d of November previous to the next session of Parliament, 2. That the examiners of petitions for private Bills commence their sittings on the 18th of January, and that they be assisted by Mr. Speaker to make such arrangement for the examination of private Bills as may be deemed expedient, 3. That private Bills at as early a period as possible in each session, 4. That compliance with the standing orders of both Houses be strictly enforced.

roduction of a railway Bill into Parliament. 4. That early day be fixed at the commencement of each session, after which no railway Bill shall be read a second time without the express sanction of the House. 5. That the panel of chairmen of committees on railway Bills should be reduced to the smallest number possible, and that the number of members of each session, such number, if possible, not to exceed five. 6. That it would tend to shorten the labours of committees, to diminish the expense of inquiries before them, if they continued their sittings not less than five hours each day. 7. That it is desirable that arrangements be made for a reduction of the business of each session being commenced in the House of Lords. 8. That to promote such an arrangement, it is desirable that the House of Commons should not insist on its privileges as regards

ny clauses in private Bills, when such clauses relate to and charges for services performed, and are not in the nature of a tax. 9. That, with the same view, committees of the House of Commons should be authorized to inquire into the honesty of the standing orders with regard to standing orders on oath. 10. That the standing orders relating to subscription contracts be repealed. 11. That evidence taken before committees of the House of Lords on private Bills be received by committees of the House of Commons, under the same regulations which have heretofore been in force in committees on divorce Bills. 12. That the House of Commons should be authorized to send notices to landowners and occupiers be altered so as to avoid the necessity of sending with the notice a description of the land in question. 13. That the standing orders with regard to the Great Fireworks Explosion.—Madame de Sevigne was described last night to be in a very bad state.

to bring it, if any, chance for her recovery." From the moment she was taken to the hospital, the "first and foremost" concern was the "commencement of the fire, and before the first explosion took place, it seems that the moment she heard the boy cry 'The red fire is alight,' she ran down stairs, and tried to extinguish the fire, and was terribly burnt. One thing is certain, that she rushed out of the house several minutes before the explosions happened, and was seated in a car, where she needed no further assistance. The Government's inhabitants are forthwith going to memorialize the Secretary of State to introduce a Bill during the present session of Parliament to cause these dangerous places of business to be removed out of the metropolis, and not even to allow fireworks to be kept in large quantities in such crowded neighbourhoods. Yesterday notice signed by Captain (now Major) Gordon, commanding the Grenadier Guards, was issued on the walls of Madame Totti's premises, to the

that if they were not at once taken down by the owner they would be removed by the police authorities. Men, however, immediately commenced pulling down the shattered raft. The parents of the poor girl Williams, who was so frightfully burnt, had only ten shillings possession of, and the poor girl Gibson's house for four hours before the explosion took place. Just before the explosions the father of the child wanted to force his way into the place, but, owing to the exertions of Police-constable Pike, of the L division, he was prevented from entering. He had, however, unquestionably must have met the same as his child.

METROPOLITAN TOLL COMMISSION.—The Commissioners appointed to inquire and report as to the best means of affording relief to the inhabitants of the metropolitan districts within six miles of Charing-cross by the abolition

[illegible]

terron, 3 vols., just published.—"A beautiful story of a woman's life. We can thank Lady Clatterton for a very pleasant novel. There is a delightful collection of colouring in her characters which, grown to her individuality, personates an infinite life and variety. Isabel and Anastasia, the young governesses, Captain Clarendon, and Reginald, the soldier, stand out from the canvas full of warm human life. And does not know Mrs. Darrell, the really kind and benevolent old woman, who springs rise in the misfortune of her neighbours; or the Duke and Duchess of Clarendon; or the rather despondent Lady Ashton, who thinks everyone ill-susured; or the intriguing Lord Clarendon, who wonders that people should be so worldly? Lady Clatterton has written a story to deserve their popularity."—John Bull. Hurst Blackett, 15, Great Marlborough Street.