

Lander, Lount, Luton, Lyon, Macdonald, McColl (Norfolk), McColl (Elgin), Murray, Richards, Rykert, Scott (Grey), Secord, Williams (Durham), Wood—42.

Messrs. Barber, Beatty, Blake, Clemens, Cook, Eyre, Finlayson, Fraser, Galbraith, Gow, Monteith, McKim, McLeod, McMillan, Perry, Scott (Ottawa), Smith (Middleton), Springer, Trow, (Hamilton)—30.

Mr. Evans agreed for the Bill with Mr. Blake.

**TORONTO AND NIPISSING RAILWAY COMPANY.**

Mr. CAMERON introduced a Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Toronto and Nipissing Railway Company.

Mr. BLAKE called attention to the fact that the discussion was continued after he had replied, and after a short debate on this, the House then adjourned at 12:5 a.m.

**MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.**

The committee met at half-past nine yesterday morning.

There were present Mr. Cumberland (Chairman), Hon. Mr. Wood, Hon. Mr. McEwen, Mr. Blake, Mr. McLeod, Mr. McDougall.

The committee continued the investigation of the Public Accounts of 1868.

**LAKE SUPERIOR ROUTE—\$11,000.**

Hon. Mr. WOOD produced the documents in the case of N. and D. Milloy; item, \$11,000, on account of service Lake Superior route.

**CAB HIRE.**

Item—T. C. Patteson, cab hire, \$107 25; Treasury Department.

Mr. McDUGALL asked how it was that Mr. Patteson's name appeared in connection with cab hire in all the departments?

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that Mr. Patteson had been clerk of contingencies, and as such had to disburse for cab hire to each of the departments, and hence the explanation of the appearance of his name in each of them.

In reply to Mr. BLAKE,

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the Commissioner of Crown Lands had a contingency fund of his own; the other heads of departments had not. The reason was that the Commissioner of Crown Lands had calls on him every day for petty sums.

Mr. BLAKE said the committee had better have an explanation of the reasons why the Commissioner of Crown Lands had this exception made in his favour.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he would have the information supplied to the committee.

The CHAIRMAN said that extravagance should be watched, or it would grow. But it would be much more convenient that each department should have a contingency fund of its own, under proper regulations. Take the Attorney-General's office, for instance; nobody there had control of a contingency fund, and could not pay for an express parcel. The Attorney-General's office was half-mile from this building.

Mr. BLAKE said there was plenty of ground around this Parliament Building, and plenty of money, and an office could be erected for the Attorney-General at less expense than was required to maintain the office in King street.

The CHAIRMAN complained of the want of accommodation for country members in the Parliamentary Buildings. There was no place here where they could sit down in quietness and write a letter.

Mr. BLAKE quite agreed in the remarks of the chairman.

**SPEAKER'S EXPENSES.**

Item, John Notman, \$85, to pay cab hire, telegrams and other expenses, Speaker's rooms.

Mr. BLAKE asked for information. He did not like to see this blocking of items, for it might lead to extravagance. He did not know that the country should have to pay for the Speaker's telegrams. Better raise his salary, and let him pay for his own telegrams.

The CHAIRMAN said he did not know of any public company which entered such minute and ridiculous details in their accounts as he saw in these public accounts. He saw, for instance, an item, "William Briscoe, a baker, 90 cents." He would look out for an item about axes. (Laughter.)

Mr. BLAKE—You will find grindstones beside them. (Renewed laughter.)

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS here entered the committee room.

Mr. BLAKE asked him to explain how payments of petty contingencies were made in his office.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said that small accounts were paid by Mr. Bradshaw out of his own pocket; and, at the end of a fortnight, he presented his account and drew a cheque on Mr. Patteson.

Mr. BLAKE asked what was the practice in other departments.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that accounts were sent in, examined by the heads of departments, ordered to be paid, and then an order was drawn on the clerk of contingencies.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS said that as far as he was concerned, he had no contingency fund.

Mr. BLAKE said he thought the best plan would be this: Let a small sum be given on an accountable warrant to the head of each department; then, at the end of a fortnight, let him present his statement and procure an Order in Council as a voucher for his warrant, and authority for the issue of a new one.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that he had no doubt the system pursued by Hon. Mr. Richards, together with the plan proposed by Mr. Blake, would constitute the best system to go upon.

Mr. BLAKE said that under the present system the clerk of contingencies was the shadow but not the substance of a check.

**CAMERON AND McMICHAEL.**

Item, Cameron & McMichael, \$15. Consultation on copyright, (for Education office.)

Mr. BLAKE said the name of Hon. Mr. Cameron, a member of the Government and a member of Parliament, should not appear in this connection.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that this account should not have appeared. The business ought not to have been done by that firm, if they realised their situation.

DR. RYERSON.

Item—Rev. Dr. Ryerson, expenses to Ottawa—\$23 50.

Mr. BLAKE asked for explanations concerning this item, and also another one, furthering this item, and also another one, furthering this item, headed "Education—Rev. Dr. Ryerson on account of expenditure, \$841 66."

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he would have these items added to the others belonging to the Education department, and they would all be examined together.

**ACCOUNTS OF 1870.**

Mr. BLAKE enquired when the accounts of 1870 would be in readiness?

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the manuscript would be ready by to-morrow morning, and the accounts would be printed in three days. The committee then adjourned.