

that after the explanation which had been given no Government which might be in office would sanction the diversion of any portion of the \$40,000 towards payment of the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company. On the same occasion he had stated, with regard to the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company, that he wished to avoid any discussion. He stated that this vote of \$40,000 stood in a very different light from all other claims, and would form no precedent whatever with regard to the Hudson's Bay Company as the Government were not prepared to recommend the claims of that Company; but he did not say that the Government or any future Government could not pay the claims of that Company. He had merely said they could not do so out of this vote of \$40,000.

Hon. Mr. McDUGALL said the explanation was proper enough, in order to prevent misapprehension. But it suggested the propriety of the question whether any claims of the Hudson's Bay Company which were very large, were likely to be paid without submitting them to Parliament.

Sir F. HINCKS—Most certainly not. It is not the intention of the Government to pay any such claims without submitting them to Parliament.

In reply to Mr. MUNEE, Sir F. HINCKS said that all claims the Government had received up to the present time in parties in the North-West had been laid before the House. The matter then dropped.

MARQUETTE ELECTION.

Dr. SCHULTZ asked if the Government had received any returns from the district of Marquette, Province of Manitoba, where, during the recent election, there had been a tie.

Sir G. E. CARTIER said, if he recollected aright, the returning officer for the district of Marquette had made a return that each candidate had an equal number of votes. He thought that in a case of this kind it would be best to go by the provisions of Baldwin's Act.

Then Mr. HOLTON—The Baldwin Act does not apply.

Sir G. E. CARTIER said he did not know what the House would do next session, but it was very likely that the proceedings under the Baldwin Act would be adopted. As the member for Chateaugay had said, the Baldwin Act did not apply to Manitoba, but still it would be a good rule for the House to adopt.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said that this incident showed conclusively that the Government should have taken some steps to provide a method for trying contested elections in the Province of Manitoba, as suggested by the hon. member for West Durham, and ought not to have waited for suggestions from that hon. member, if the initiative devolved on them. He believed that the Government had been grossly wrong in its duty in not having brought before the House some suggestions on the mode of dealing with this question.

The subject then dropped.

SUPPLY BILL.

Sir F. HINCKS moved the third reading of the Bill—An Act granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial year ending respectively the 30th June, 1871, and the 30th June, 1872, and for other purposes relating to the public service.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said it was not his purpose to offer any extended observations on this occasion. The session which was now drawing to a close had been a short one, but its events, though of surpassing importance, must be too fresh in the memories of hon. members to require or justify any hon. member rehearsing them. The record of this session was put upon the journals, and he for one was willing that the record should go to the country without note or comment from him. At all events the session had undoubtedly been an eventful one, and one which would always be memorable in the annals of the country. He believed, however, that it would be chiefly memorable by reason of this very Bill of Supply now before the House. That Bill of Supply could be safely characterized only by one adjective in our language—a reckless Bill of Supply. It was reckless in a financial point of view to an extent that might be regarded as prophetic of financial disasters at an early day; it was reckless in a political point of view, because the appropriation of money in that Bill involved, in his judgment at all events a policy that would be destructive, if followed out, to the system of government upon which we had so recently entered. This was all he had to say on the third reading of that Bill.

Sir F. HINCKS said he would endeavour to imitate his hon. friend the member for Chateaugay in curtailing his remarks. He (Sir F. Hincks) was satisfied that this Bill should go to the country. The member for Chateaugay had characterized it as a reckless Bill. Well, it was perfectly true, as he (Sir F. Hincks) had admitted through his own lips, as estimates were very large. These estimates were large because of the impossibility of getting to the state of the finances for many years past of entering on the construction of several works of great importance to the country. These works had been postponed till a period when the treasury was empty sufficient to meet other needs and leave a very large surplus beside. There was not the slightest doubt of this surplus. There was nothing in the Supply Bill which would involve any difficulty whatever to the Dominion. There was one very important item in this Bill, that of \$1,000,000 for taking the census, and this ought to be reckoned among the extraordinary expenses of the year. There were several public buildings to be constructed, and the Government would not be justified in asking money for them were it not for an over-whelming emergency, due to the prosperity of the country. He agreed with the hon. member for Chateaugay the other evening that the flourishing state of the finances was a thing for which no Finance Minister should take credit, but the same condition of affairs was remarked when he held office in 1859, and he was very thankful for it. He was quite satisfied that there was no difficulty whatever with regard to meeting the public charges the people of the country would be called on to bear.

Hon. Mr. McDUGALL observed that the Minister of Finance had justified the extraordinary expenses because of our surplus, but merely stating that these charges were extraordinary did not get rid of the difficulty. He (Mr. McDougall) had been in Parliament ten or twelve years, and had always heard the same argument in reply to accusations concerning large expenditure. The hon. member for Sherbrooke, when Finance Minister had constantly used the same argument to answer a charge of extravagance, as if a Minister was not responsible for extraordinary items. The Government were fairly open to the charge of extravagance and recklessness respecting the Intercolonial Railway. There would be a useless expenditure of between two and a half or three millions in persisting in the broad gauge and laying the track with steel rails. In view of these facts he could not agree with the defence the Finance Minister had made against the charges well founded and levelled in fairness by the hon. member for Chateaugay against the Supply Bill.

The SPEAKER submitted the Supply Bill to the House, and it was read a third time and passed.

THE NORTH-WEST—EXPLANATION.

Mr. D. A. SMITH (Selkirk) rose to make an explanation to the House. The other evening the honourable member for Lisgar (Dr. Schultz) had made certain charges against the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, grounding them upon what took place at a meeting of these officers in the Norway House previous to the outbreak. These officers at that meeting took no action whatever against the interests of Canada. It was their anxious desire that the transfer of the country should take place.

Hon. Mr. McDUGALL said that the Secretary of State for the Provinces had mentioned in this House last year that such a meeting had taken place, and it was only by a majority of one that the action amounting to some resistance was not taken. He (Mr. McDougall) assured the hon. member for Selkirk that this kind of discussion was not in order unless there were some question before the House. In the next place he would tell that hon. gentleman who was not present at the meeting in question, that he would do well in not attempting to palliate the conduct of the Hudson's Bay Company, or try to show that somebody else was responsible to Canada for making her incur additional expense to obtain that which had already been purchased. He (Mr. McDougall) was determined that the hon. member for Selkirk should not in this House endeavour to change the facts of the case by his simple statement, for information in his (Mr. McDougall's) possession corresponded with the statements made by the hon. member for Lisgar, and by the secretary for the Provinces.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said that there was nothing more irregular than the course taken by the hon. member for Selkirk, in trying to make a statement

respecting the events of a previous debate the question not being before the House. He (Mr. Holtton) refrained from calling the member to order out of regard to the circumstance of his being a new member; but he would tell him that his course had been not only irregular, but was calculated to prejudice the public mind in relation to a matter now in controversy. That gentleman ought to know that with regard to the conduct of the Hudson's Bay Company there was a controversy in this country, and that his statements could not be taken as facts. If he desired a discussion, let him bring the matter up formally and he would hear what some people had to say in relation to the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company in the North West. The matter then dropped.

INDEMNITY OF MANITOBA MEMBERS.

Sir G. CARTIER said he was about to move a case he considered one of great hardship. On the 13th of March last, elections took place in Manitoba. Three gentlemen then elected had come to Ottawa, and in travelling had suffered an extreme amount of hardship. They had not been here a sufficient number of days to entitle them to a full seasonal allowance, but their case ought to be liberally dealt with. He therefore moved that it be resolved that the Speaker be authorized to direct the accountants of the House to pay respectively to the members lately elected from Manitoba, and who have attended the deliberations of this House, the full seasonal allowance, deductions however being made at an equal rate of the number of days of non-attendance during the session. He concluded by explaining that the three members would each receive \$600, but be allowed credit only for the number of days they had been here.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said that under the peculiar circumstances of the case he would not offer strenuous objection; but his own conviction was that the scheme of members' indemnity would have to be revised. He thought it worked very badly in a variety of ways, and would certainly require revision in respect to members who would come here next year from new and remote provinces. The doubt he felt in the present case was that the matter came up so late, and was brought forward without notice. But the case itself was so novel, and, perhaps, so urgent that he was disposed to waive any objections that he might otherwise feel.

Hon. Mr. WOOD reminded the House of the case of the late Mr. Notman, whose seasonal allowance was paid to his representatives. There was also the case of Mr. Carke, in the Ontario Legislature, whose allowance was granted by order of the House.

The motion was passed. Mr. WALSH said that without consulting the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Simpson), he would put forward the case of that gentleman, who had only received official notice of the meeting of the House the day before it met.

Mr. SIMPSON said he was perfectly satisfied with his case (hear hear).

Mr. WALSH said he thought the hon. member's case one of great hardship.

Mr. SIMPSON repeated that he was perfectly content.

Mr. WALSH said he did not mention the case to the hon. member beforehand, lest he might repudiate it.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—He has done so very properly. The matter then dropped.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Hon. Mr. McDUGALL moved concurrence on the amendment made in the Senate to the Bill rendering permissive the metric system of weights and measures.

Carried. THE ROYAL STATUTES.

Hon. Mr. McDUGALL presented a report from the Library Committee, showing what steps had been taken with regard to the purchase of the Royal Statutes. It was laid on the table.

WAITING FOR THE BLACK ROD.

It now being half past two o'clock, and no further business to be transacted, the House, with the Speaker in the chair, awaited the arrival of the message from His Excellency.

At ten minutes past three the usher of the Black Rod summoned the House to attend upon His Excellency in the Senate Chamber.

PROROGATION.

In the Senate Chamber the galleries were well filled by ladies, but not crowded, as has been the case on many former occasions. On the floor of the House, on the front seats, were Mr. Gingras, Roman Catholic Bishop of Ottawa, and beside him Rev. Mr. Stephenson, Methodist minister; in rear were several ministers of the Episcopal Church. In the vicinity of the Throne, which was occupied by His Excellency, were Lady Lisgar and two members of the Ministry. The Ministers in uniform were Sir G. Cartier, Hon. Mr. Mitchell and Hon. Mr. Campbell.

BILLS ASSENTED TO.

- His Excellency gave assent to the following Bills:—
- An Act for the prevention of corrupt practices in relation to the collection of the revenue.
- An Act to establish one uniform currency for the Dominion of Canada.
- An Act to prolong for a certain time the term allowed for the redemption of rents served on certain Indian lands in the township of Dundee.
- An Act to extend the provisions of the act authorizing the imposition and collection of harbour dues by the corporation of the town of Owen Sound.
- An Act to indemnify the members of the Executive Government and others for the unavoidable expenditure of public money in excess of the Parliamentary grant incurred in repelling the threatened invasion of the Fenians in 1870.
- An Act to amend and explain the Act to amend the Charter of the Ontario Bank.
- An Act to incorporate the Ontario and Quebec Railway Company.
- An Act to incorporate the Mutual Life Association of Canada.
- An Act to make further provision for the government of the North-West Territories.
- An Act for more effectually preventing the desertion of seamen in the Port of Quebec.
- An Act to amend the Act 33 Vic., chapter 40 respecting the settlement of the affairs of the Bank of Upper Canada.
- An Act respecting the loan authorized by the Act 32 and 33 Vic., chapter 1, for the purpose of paying a certain sum to the Hudson's Bay Company.
- An Act further to amend the Act respecting the improvement and management of the Harbour of Quebec.
- An Act further to amend the Act respecting fishing by foreign vessels.
- An Act to amend the Acts relating to duties of Customs.
- An Act to incorporate the Saint Ste. Marie Railway and Bridge Company.
- An Act respecting certain officers of the Trinity House of Quebec.
- An Act to incorporate the Isolated Risk Fire Insurance Company of Canada.
- An Act to incorporate the Montreal and City of Ottawa Junction Railway Company.
- An Act to amend the Insolvent Act of 1869.
- An Act to incorporate the Confederation Life Association.
- An Act to amend the Census Act.
- An Act to incorporate the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company.
- An Act to extend to the Province of New Brunswick the operation of the Act of the Legislature of the late Province of Canada, concerning the Synod of the Church of England in Canada.
- An Act concerning the Vaudreuil Railway Company.
- An Act to incorporate the Western Bank.
- An Act to incorporate the Metropolitan Bank.
- An Act to comprise in one Act the financial affairs of the Great Western Railway Company.
- An Act to incorporate the Bedford District Bank.
- An Act to amend the Act incorporating the Sun Insurance Company of Montreal.
- An Act to incorporate the Bank of Liverpool.
- An Act to amend the Act incorporating the villages of Trenton to impose and collect harbour dues, and for other purposes.
- An Act relating to the Commercial Bank of New Brunswick.
- An Act to incorporate the Dominion Telegraph Company.

An Act to authorize the Northern Railway Company of Canada to make agreements for the leasing, using, and working of the lines of railway of other companies.

An Act to provide for the appointment of a port warden for the harbour of Quebec.

An Act to make provision for validating certain premium notes taken or held by Mutual Fire Insurance Companies.

An Act to amend the Act respecting Insurance Companies.

An Act to authorize the sale of the Oakville Harbour.

An Act to extend to the Province of Manitoba certain of the criminal laws now in force in the other provinces of the Dominion.

An Act to incorporate the Fredericton and St. Mary's Bridge Company.

An Act in relation to the Library of Parliament.

An Act to authorize the sale or lease of the Rockwood Farm to the Province of Ontario.

Acts relating to Banks and Banking.

An Act to incorporate the Mutual Insurance Company of Canada.

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Militia and Defence of the Dominion of Canada.

An Act to make to make temporary provision for the election of members to serve in the House of Commons of Canada.

His Excellency then delivered the following address:—

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

In releasing you from further attendance in Parliament, I beg leave to express my warm acknowledgements for the diligence with which you have applied yourselves to the discharge of your public duties. The session has been brief, but work of importance has been accomplished, and I may congratulate you on the prospect which is foreshadowed that in the future the sessions of the Parliament of the Dominion will not make the inconvenient demands on the time of the members which they have done in the past.

The arrival in Ottawa of the representatives elected to serve for the Province of Manitoba, and their taking their seats in Parliament, marks signally the completion of the union of that Province with the Dominion.

The criminal militia and other statutes not in their nature inapplicable to Manitoba, have been extended to that Province. The regular ones for the survey and granting of lands in Manitoba were modeled on a system tested by experience, and will, by their liberality, offer a free home to all, without restriction, who desire to settle in the country and avail themselves of the advantages held out to them.

It shall be one of my earliest cares during recess to take steps to negotiate on equitable principles, with the Indian tribes in Manitoba and the North-West Territory, in order to quiet their titles to lands.

The session which we are now closing has witnessed the consummation of the union of Manitoba and the adoption of the necessary initial measures to facilitate and ensure the admission of British Columbia into the Dominion. The addresses passed by the Senate and House of Commons I will transmit to the Colonial Secretary to the Dominion of Great Britain, and I trust Parliament will, at its next session, have the satisfaction of viewing as an accomplished fact the union of all Her Majesty's continental possessions in North America—an object the attainment of which even the most sanguine advocates of Confederation did not anticipate for many years to come.

I cherish the expectation that the result of the census will demonstrate that the several Provinces of the Dominion have made a rapid advance in population and in all the elements of material prosperity during the last decade.

The fisheries question is still under the consideration of the Joint High Commission at Washington, and I am confident that every effort is being made to secure such a result as will meet the reasonable expectations of the Canadian people, and tend to the preservation of lasting amity and good feeling between Great Britain and the United States.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons: I tender you my thanks for the readiness with which you have granted the supplies for the present year.

Honourable Gentlemen and Gentlemen: We have abundant cause for rejoicing at the present moment in the favourable state of the revenue, and the thriving condition of many branches of the national industry. I gratefully acknowledge the loyalty of the people, and the spirit of order and respect for the law which pervades in every part of the country; and I pray with all humility that these blessings may be of long continuance, and that from whom all good proceeds may vouchsafe to look with favour on this Dominion.

His Excellency then took his departure, and on leaving was saluted, as he had been on his entrance, by a salvo of artillery.

He ended the fourth session of the first Parliament of the Dominion of Canada.