

## DOMINION PARLIAMENT

OTTAWA, April 28.

In the House of Commons yesterday Mr. Rufus Stephenson moved the adoption of the *Household Committee's report*, recommending the appointment of a permanent official reporting staff, and the publication of an official report daily, in newspaper form. A debate participated in by Messrs. Jones (Ladd), Vallee, Blake, Casey, White, (Cardwell), Pinard, and Ross (Maitland) ensued. Each of these members appeared to be willing to try the new proposal as an experiment, as the existing arrangement was admitted on all sides to be unsatisfactory. Mr. Blake added that if the scheme did not give better satisfaction than the present did he could not promise the House that he would support any further votes on this account after next session. The item was voted on a division of 103 yeas, 44 nays—majority for, 59.

The House went into Committee of Supply on the Supplementary Estimates for the current year, and after reporting all but two or three items, reported progress.

Several Government measures passed through their final stages.

The following are among the bills assented to by the Governor General on Thursday:

- An act to incorporate the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association.
- An act respecting the Great Western & Lake Ontario Shore Junction Railway Company.

An act to authorize the establishment of superannuation, provident and Insurance funds by the Great Western Railway Company.

An act to incorporate the Baptist Union of Canada.

An act to amend and re-enact as amended the act incorporating the Dominion Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry of Canada.

An act further to amend the act herein cited incorporating the Canada Guarantee Company.

An act to incorporate the Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

An act to confirm the purchase by the Dominion of a portion of the Grand Trunk railway and the agreement made with the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada with respect thereto.

An act for the final settlement of claims to lands in Manitoba by occupant.

An act to amend the act to incorporate the Ontario & Pacific Junction Railway Company.

An act further to continue in force for a limited time the "Better Prevention of the Crime Act," 1878.

An act further to amend the act there mentioned respecting the militia and defence of the Dominion of Canada.

Ottawa, May 3.

The Speaker took the chair at 3:15 p.m. The supplementary estimates were submitted.

Mr. Baley moved a resolution to the effect that the responsibility as to the quality of petroleum be placed upon the vendors, and that the fine test be adjusted. The resolution was adopted, and a Bill founded thereon introduced.

Sir L. Tilley moved the House into Committee to consider certain resolutions as to the Dominion aiding in the building of a graving dock at Esquimalt, on the Island of Victoria. A keen discussion arose.

Mr. Mackenzie contended that this was virtually giving British Columbia the sum of \$250,000 for which there was not the slightest justification, but was wrong in itself and in injustice to other parts of the Dominion.

With greater justice the Government might offer to build a dock at Halifax, St. John or Montreal. Mr. Blake moved in amendment that it is inexpedient to make such a grant. After some remarks from Mr. De Cosmo and Sir John the amendment was put to the vote.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Mills and Huntington in behalf of the amendment, and Sir Charles Tupper against. At nine o'clock the vote was taken, and the amendment was negatived on the following division: Yeas, 50; nays—127, in forty against 77.

The House went into Committee of Supply, and continued until the whole of the estimates proper had been passed. The discussion was purely of a desultory character.

Ottawa, April 29.

When the House met its members were summoned to attend in the Senate, where his Excellency assented to certain bills.

On the Commons returning to their chamber the Minister of Justice introduced Bills relating to the North Shore Railway; also a Bill to amend the law of evidence in certain cases; also a Bill providing for the administration of justice in the disputed territory of Keewatin and North West Ontario. The Customs' Act was advanced a stage, after which the following Government measures were passed:

An Act for the relief of Permanent Building Societies and Loan Companies, and to restrict their modes of lending.

An Act to amend the law respecting the removal of obstructions in navigable waters by wrecks.

An Act for extending the consolidated Act of 1870 respecting duties imposed on promissory notes and bills of exchange to the whole Dominion.

On the second reading of the Bill appointing a High Commissioner of Canada to Great Britain, Sir John Macdonald explained its provisions, already well known, and alluding to the High Commissioner's salary, said he would be placed on the same status as a Lieutenant Governor of the first class.

Mr. Mackenzie entered the Chamber during Mr. Anglin's address, and at its conclusion delivered a twenty minutes' speech, which somewhat surprised the House. It was concise, severe, and vigorous. The points against the Government were made with telling force, and certainly the effect was his best this session. He condemned the Administration for their violation of the principles of constitutional Government in making the appointment first and asking Parliament to ratify it afterwards. Having humorously alluded to the Government's anxiety as to the precedence the High Commissioner should enjoy at entertainments as manifested in the official correspondence, he advised the Government to caution their High Commissioners as to the kind of language he should use on public occasions. He condemned and ridiculed Sir Alex. Galt's Jingo speech at Montreal and his lamination of the Beaconsfield Government, which Government, on arriving in London he found in a minority of one hundred and fifty. Other passages in the correspondence intimated that there was a scheme under consideration for the establishment of a small standing army in Canada for Imperial and Colonial purposes. This proposal was denounced in unequivocal terms. Sir Alexander's M'atrical attack on the United States, whom he described as being hostile, or at least unfriendly, was exhibited as a specimen of an indocile and untrustful utterance. In conclusion he sarcastically said that while Sir Alexander Galt would probably condone with Lord Beaconsfield on his defeat, he trusted his assault on the Free Trade policy of England would not detrimentally affect his relations to that greater, nobler and truer statesman, Mr. Gladstone. On concluding his speech, Mr. Mackenzie resumed his seat amidst prolonged cheers.

After recess.

Mr. Blake made his first speech as leader of the Opposition. It was a creditable effort, and is interesting as defining somewhat the Opposition's policy on Imperial questions.

Ottawa, April 30.

Mr. Edward Holton, the recently elected member for Chateauguay, was introduced by

the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie and Hon. Mr. Laurier. Mr. Holton was received with cheers by the Opposition.

The resolutions on the subject of the agreement entered into with the Government by the Canada Central Railway Company in October, 1871 last year, were adopted and a Bill framed on the same introduction.

The House was occupied the remainder of the afternoon in concurrence on the report of the Committee of Supply.

After recess several private Bills were advanced a stage. The House was occupied nearly three hours in concurrence of supplies. On the item of \$500 to pay Mr. E. Mill, a further sum in recognition of his services in connection with the Halifax Fishery Commission, Mr. Mackenzie took exception to vote on the ground that the late Government paid Mr. Mill ample for this service.

The item was voted on a division of 103 yeas, 44 nays—majority for, 59.

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SPRING.

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## N. G. & J. McKECHNIE

Are now Receiving a Large Stock of NEW and FASHIONABLE Spring and Summer Goods.

### Melanchthon Council.

The Council met on Monday, the 19th of April. The members were all present. Communications from the County Treasurer and Mr. S. H. McKittrick were presented and read. Applications were also presented from Messrs. C. J. Wheeler and Isaac Taynor, asking for the appointment of Township Surveyor. The Treasurer was authorized to accept the sum of \$9.14 from Thomas Parkins for taxes due on the N.W. quarter of Lot 23, Con. 2, C. S. for 1869. John Craner was credited on his note with four days' statute labor, and T. Revelle was credited with five days. The Treasurer was instructed to receive from B. Blair \$18.20 for taxes due on Lot 22, Con. 6, S. W. for 1879. Mrs. Armstrong was granted \$16 for the purchase of seed grain, S. McDowell being entrusted with her proper expenditure. The petition of John Kindle and thirty one others of S. No. 6, praying for powers to drain a portion of the township was laid on the table until next meeting. The Treasurer was authorized to receive \$11.56 from Mark G. Williams for taxes due on Lot 264 and Con. 1, C. S. W. for 1878. The election expenses incurred to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Reeve, amounting to \$46.20, were ordered to be paid. The Treasurer was authorized to receive from R. A. Hartley \$2.96 taxes due on S. W. half of Lot 301, Con. 2, S. W. for 1879; from Thomas Cattell, \$14.62, taxes on Lots 282 and 294, Con. 1; Lots 250 and 281, Con. 3; and Lots 284 and 285, Con. 4, S. W. for 1879. The Reeve was instructed to issue an order for \$100, being the damages and costs in the Wiggin case. The special committee reported that the Treasurer's securities were satisfactory. The Assessor was paid \$39 on account, and the Collector's firm was extended to the 15th day of May next. The Reeve was paid \$8.50 and the Deputy Reeve \$4.50, for services rendered in the Wiggin case. The special committee reported that the Treasurer's securities were satisfactory. 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