

Hon. Mr. ROSE, by Hon. Mr. ALLEYN and Hon. Mr. ROSE.
Hon. Mr. COCKBURN, by Mr. Powell and Hon. Mr. ROSE.
Hon. Mr. EUCHANAN, by Mr. W. Ferguson and Mr. LeBouthillier.
Hon. Mr. GALT, by Hon. Mr. Alleyne and Mr. Knight.
Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN, by Hon. Mr. Alleyne and Mr. Blanchet.

RECEIPTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following among other returns—Receipts and expenses of Northern Railway for 1883; Receipts and Expenses of Montreal Turnpike Trust for 1883.

PETITIONS.

A large number of petitions were presented, among which were the following:

By Mr. PRICE—Petitions from the inhabitants of sundry municipalities in the counties of Saguenay and Chicoutimi, praying for aid to colonize roads, and additional school grants; and the appointment of a resident judge for the county of Chicoutimi.

By Hon. Mr. ALLEYN—A petition from Alexandre Delisle complaining of having been unjustly deprived of his office.

By Hon. Mr. EVANTUREL—A petition from the inhabitants of the county of Quebec, praying that the Lower Canada Provincial Exhibition be held alternately at Quebec, and other Lower Canadian cities.

ELECTION COMMITTEES.

The Chairmen of several Election Committees reported the absence of members from the meetings of said Committee.

FIRST READINGS.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. ROSE—To regulate the business of stevedores and liners in the harbor of Montreal.

By Hon. Mr. ROSE—A bill respecting the weighing and measuring of certain articles.

ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD suggested the propriety of an adjournment, inasmuch as the great majority of the members present had only arrived this morning, and as there were still many to arrive.

Hon. Mr. DORION said that before the motion of adjournment was put, he would state his belief that he thought it was usual on such occasions as the present for new Administrations to offer explanations as to the policy intended to be pursued by them. When this House last met, we had some explanations from an hon. member who declared himself, however, incapable of giving full explanations as to the policy of the new Government; and he (Mr. Dorion) thought the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury Benches should, on the first occasion of the assembling of the House, be ready to furnish the usual explanations respecting the formation of the Ministry, and its policy—especially as some important points thereof foreshadowed when the House was last in session required some explanation. He would particularly refer to the points in reference to the steps to be taken to secure a more intimate commercial alliance between the sister Provinces, and the abrogation of canal tolls, for the purpose of attracting a greater portion of the western trade to our waters. Now, he supposed one of the subjects on which explanations were required was the Intercolonial Railway. He thought this was the proper time to learn whether the terms agreed on as a basis for negotiations in 1862, to which two of the members of the present Administration were parties, were to form the basis of the arrangements to be carried out with a view to improve our means of access to the seaboard. He would also like to know whether all the changes contemplated with reference to the canal tolls had been made? The House had a right to information on these points at as early a day as possible.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD said explanations with reference to the formation of the Government were fully gone into before the adjournment, when information was given to the House in regard to all the steps taken in connection with the formation of the present Administration, and with reference to the attempts made to form other Cabinets. He thought the House and country were fully aware of all that took place in relation to these matters. With respect to the policy of the Government, it would be fully shown by their measures, when brought down—when it would be also observed that what was announced as the policy would be carried out by the Government in their legislation. He would prefer that any discussion on this subject should stand over till to-morrow, to allow of the presence of several hon. members on both sides of the House, and particularly the hon. member for Cornwall, as questions of fact might arise. He would, therefore, move that the House adjourn till to-morrow. (Carried.)

The House then, at a quarter to ten, adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, May 4th, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

After routine business—

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Montreal and Champlain Railway Amendment Bill.

Belvidere Mining and Smelting Company's Bill.

Sherbrooke Mining and Smelting Company's Bill.

Hessemer's Patent Bill.

The Reports were received, and ordered to be taken into consideration on Friday next.

THIRD READINGS.

Bill to confirm and continue the Parish of St. Gabriel de Brandon into a separate Municipality.

Bill to provide for the conveyance of certain lands sold by the late Charles Lawrence.

SECOND READINGS.

Bill to amend an Act relating to the Corporation of the City of Montreal.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER explained the bill, and said it had received very careful consideration at the hands of the City Council of Montreal. What they asked for was power to open new streets, and to make other improvements, which were fully detailed in the bill. It was then read a second time, and referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Hon. Sir N. F. BELLEAU gave notice of a motion in respect of the Manitoulin Islands (already published.)

The House then adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, May 4th, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

THE NEW MEMBERS FOR NORTH WATERLOO.

Mr. BOWMAN, the newly-elected member for North Waterloo, was introduced by Hon. Mr. DORION and Mr. A. Mackenzie, and took his seat on the Opposition side of the House.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. KNIGHT introduced a bill to authorize the granting of letters patent to Chas. C. Colby, for the introduction into Canada of a new and useful art, and the machinery connected therewith.

RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON laid on the table a number of returns of documents, prayed for by addresses of the House.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

Hon. Mr. DORION made an enquiry with regard to the explanations which, he understood, had been promised yesterday.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD suggested that the notices of motion be called over, in case any hon. gentleman desired to move.

Hon. Mr. DORION—If that is the understanding I have no objection.

At the suggestion of Hon. J. A. MACDONALD, the orders of the day having reference to members ordered to attend in their places were also called over, and disposed of.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD said the hon. member for Hochelaga, yesterday, called upon him for explanations respecting the formation and policy of the Government. Now, explanations relative to the formation of the Administration were already before the House. He would not now recapitulate what every member had already heard respecting the negotiations preliminary to the construction of the present Cabinet. The late Ministry, at the opening of Parliament, promised a great many measures affecting materially the general welfare of Canada, and involving many of the great interests of the country. Although the Opposition of that day felt they could have no great confidence in the power of that Administration to carry out the promises laid before Parliament, we thought it was right to give them every opportunity to do so; and the House would remember the then Opposition did not pass one hostile vote against them, but, on the contrary, afforded them every opportunity of carrying out their policy. Notwithstanding that a long discussion arose on the answer to the Address, there was no motion in amendment made, no side-issue raised, and nothing in any way done to impede or obstruct the Government in regard to the various measures promised the country. And this course was followed by the Opposition during the month or six weeks that the late Government held the reins of office, not a single vote hostile to the Ministry or otherwise being brought on by any member of the late Opposition. And therefore, when the hon.

member for Cornwall informed this House that the Government had seen fit to place their resignations in the hands of His Excellency the Governor General, it was observed that this was their own act and was not forced on them by any act of the Opposition. The House would remember the statement made solemnly and deliberately by the hon. member for Cornwall on that occasion, and the declaration that, for want of numerical support, the Government could not longer continue, and that they felt it their duty to resign. Whether the Government acted right or wrong in so doing was not now the question. He (Mr. J. A. Macdonald) thought that the moment any Administration considered they were not strong enough to properly conduct the affairs of the country, they acted wisely and constitutionally in giving up power. At the same time it might be questioned whether the Government of the day were not bound to submit to the Legislature—the measures they pledged themselves to introduce, so that the House and country might judge as to whether their promises were to be carried out or not. And it was also a question whether the ex-Finance Minister was not bound to bring down his budget so long promised and expected. The Government, however, very properly retired, thinking they could no longer remain in office with credit to themselves or advantage to the country. We all remembered the events which followed. An hon. gentleman, a member of the Upper House and of the retiring Administration, was charged with the formation of a new Government on a broad basis. He failed; after which the present hon. Premier was sent for to form a new Administration. He, after some hesitation, consented, and subsequently applied to him (Mr. J. A. Macdonald) for aid in the accomplishment of his task. He suggested that the present hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. Mr. Campbell) should be sent for, who, when summoned by telegraph, came down and set to work to form the Upper Canada section of a new Administration. The result was that this hon. gentleman failed, and Hon. F. Blair had, when Sir E. P. Tache had only two courses before him—either to state he was unable to form an Administration on a broad basis, or to object to form one with members out of the party with which he had so long acted. It was quite clear to him, and would be to every constitutional statesman, that it was the duty of an Opposition, when so called upon, not to shirk the responsibility of office. If one party resigned office, their opponents were bound by constitutional practice to assume the responsibility of office, having previously assumed the responsibility of opposing the retiring Administration. Sir E. P. Tache, acting according to this constitutional practice, formed an Administration of those with whom he usually acted. He again communicated with himself (Mr. J. A. M.) when he consented to act with him in the formation of a Cabinet, and the result was the creation of the present Ministry. These were all the explanations which he had to offer, and all, he thought, that could properly be called for by hon. gentlemen opposite. A Government was formed of those opposed to the late Administration, which had gone to the country, and we all knew the result. The hon. member for Hochelaga asked several questions relating to the policy of the Government. It was not the practice in England to take such a course under such circumstances. On the contrary, this course had been condemned by the leaders of several Governments on different occasions; they taking this ground: "We take office, and our policy is to be judged by the measures we submit to Parliament." Of course, the present Administration was to be judged in the same way. Still, the practice of late years here had been to afford explanations on the formation of a new Cabinet; a distinct programme having been read to the House by the present hon. Speaker, on the formation of the Brown-Dorion Ministry.

Mr. DUNKIN—And on the formation of the Cartier-Macdonald Ministry, too.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—Yes, and by other Governments. In accordance with this practice, the present Government authorized the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Caschoven), and the hon. member for Peel (Mr. J. H. Cameron), to state to the House, before it adjourned, the general policy of the Administration. He (Mr. Macdonald) would refer briefly to the heads of this policy, as set forth on that occasion. The first paragraph referred to the policy to be pursued in regard to the defence of the country. His hon. friend, Sir E. Tache, had assumed the duties of Receiver General and Minister of Militia, so that the nominal character of the former would enable him to devote more attention to the duties of the latter office, to occupy which he was so well qualified. The late Attorney General for Upper Canada and his hon.