

On motion of Hon. J. A. MACDONALD, the House met, at a quarter to twelve p. m., adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, June 15th, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. Sir E. P. TACHE said that in consequence of the adverse vote in the other branch of the Legislature, last night, he moved that the House do now adjourn.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON BLAIR enquired whether they were to understand that the Ministry had tendered their resignation.

Hon. Sir E. P. TACHE—Not at all. It is on that account that I have abstained from offering any explanation.

The House then adjourned, at ten minutes after three o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, June 15th, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

THE TOBACCO EXCISE.

Hon. Mr. BROWN presented a petition from a number of tobacco manufacturers of the city of Toronto, against the scheme of excise duties on tobacco, of the hon. Finance Minister.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND COMMERCE.

Mr. DUNKIN presented the 6th Report of the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

THE BEWING DIVORCE BILL.

Mr. SCOBLE, from the Committee to whom was referred the bill for the relief of James Fenwick, reported the said bill with several amendments.

EMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.

Mr. JACKSON presented the second Report of the Committee on Emigration and Colonization.

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS.

Mr. ARCHAMBAULT, from the General Committee on Elections, reported the following gentlemen to form the Committee appointed to try and determine the merits of the petition complaining of an undue election and return for the North Riding of the county of Waterloo, viz: Messrs. Wallbridge, Bown, Biggar, Higginson and Morris.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD said—Before the orders of the day are called, I rise to state that after the vote of last night, our position being so much affected thereby, we have thought it our duty to communicate with His Excellency on the subject. (Hear, hear.) After having made that communication, I move the adjournment of the House till to-morrow. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that no doubt the House was willing to take into consideration the difficulties and embarrassments in the way of the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches; but, at the same time, considering the position of this House and the state in which the public business now stands, it was felt that explanations were due to hon. members and the country in regard to the position and intentions of the Government. It was quite evident the vote of last night had had an effect upon the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches. This House had decided that the state of things which had existed for some time past could not exist longer, and it was due to the House and the country to know from Ministers what their intention was. (Oh, oh.) He challenged contradiction of his statements. Every Ministry had felt itself bound to declare to the House, on occasions like the present, the causes for the adjournment, and had invariably accompanied those explanations by the statement that they held their seats till their successors were appointed, or wanted time to reconstruct. But the Hon. Attorney General West simply stated he had communicated with His Excellency, and then asked an adjournment. Now, the House had a right to know what he had communicated to His Excellency. (Oh, oh, and hear, hear.) There should be no concealment as far as that was concerned. We had a right to know whether they had tendered their resignations. They had a right to tell the House what advice they tendered to His Excellency—had they offered their resignations—had they been accepted or not. If the proposal stated he had communicated was not concurred, and if no conclusion had been arrived at, they, of course, had a right to ask for time to receive an answer—but we should know what course they recommended—whether they tendered their resignations or advised reconstruction. The House should insist on more explicit explanations from the Government on the matter.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD said—I am sorry

to have to hear such statements from my hon. friend, he having been himself an executive councillor. He knows that every adviser of His Excellency is sworn not to divulge the advice which he, in his official capacity, tenders him without His Excellency's consent. And we are not in a position to state the nature of our communication to His Excellency, not having yet obtained his assent to make any explanations to this House. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. BROWN said—The hon. gentlemen opposite ought to be allowed the fullest opportunity of considering what course they think best to pursue. I am bound to believe that the moment they have given their advice to His Excellency, and the moment that advice is acted upon, they will take the earliest opportunity of disclosing what has been done. (Hear, hear.) They have stated that matters have not been brought to a conclusion, and in this critical position of the affairs of the country, when one administration resigned, not having a majority, and when the other is in the same position as regards a majority, it will require the greatest consideration to take us out of our present dilemma. (Cheers.) Whether it is likely there will be a dissolution or a change of parties, the Ministry deserve consideration at our hands. (Hear, hear.) Those gentlemen have grave responsibilities and should have time to deliberate upon what is the best course for them to pursue. (Cheers.) I hope, for my part, they will take full time and adopt a course consistent with the respect due to this House, and themselves before they come to a decision. And I hope that decision will do credit to the country and themselves. (Cheers.)

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—I quite concur in the remarks that have been made by my hon. friend, and am very happy he has taken that view of the matter. I quite agree with the hon. member for Cornwall that the House should receive the fullest information possible when the proper time comes. But I cannot communicate anything without the consent of His Excellency being first given. But he has not yet given that consent. I now move that the House adjourn.

The House then, at half-past three o'clock, adjourned till Thursday at three o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY June 16th.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. MOURE presented the Report of the Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament on the Library. Ordered, that the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

PRINTING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Hon. Mr. SANBORN presented a report from the Joint Committee on Printing, on certain papers which had been referred to it for printing. It was ordered that the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

BILLS FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

A number of private bills from the Legislative Assembly were read a first time, and ordered for a second reading to-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

Hon. Col. TACHE stated that the difficulties which induced him yesterday to move the adjournment of the House not having been removed, he again moved that the House adjourn. The House accordingly adjourned at twenty-five minutes before four o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, 16th June, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

THE ST. JOHN, N. B. INVITATION.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the telegram received from the St. John, N. B., Chamber of Commerce, inviting the members of both Houses of Parliament to meet them at Shediac after the prorogation.

Some remarks, which were laudable in the Reporters Gallery, were made on the subject by one or two hon. members.

Hon. Mr. McREE suggested that there would be no harm at least in saying that we were much obliged to the citizens of St. John's for the invitation; but that circumstances might prevent us from accepting it.

The matter then dropped.

TERRIBLES ELECTION.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND presented the final Report of the Terrebonne Election Committee, declaring Mr. L. Labreche-Yiger duly elected, and declaring that neither the petition nor the defence was frivolous or vexatious.

NORTH WATERLOO ELECTION.

The members of the North Waterloo Election Committee were sworn in, and

On motion of Mr. ARCHAMBAULT, the petition complaining of an undue election was referred to that Committee.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON laid on the table the Report of the Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, for 1863.

Also, a notice relative to the said, forfeiture and re-sale of the Wallace Mine.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—Mr. Speaker, As I have already stated, owing to the vote of the House on Tuesday night last, the Government felt it their duty to communicate with His Excellency; and we are not yet in a position to state what was the nature of that communication. I therefore move that the House do now adjourn.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Before I make any observations on the proposition of the hon. member for Kingston to adjourn the House, I should like to ask the Government if any resignations have been tendered by any of the members of the Cabinet, and by whom?

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—There have been no resignations. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—That is satisfactory, because any resignations would have been news which we should have had a right to know. The branch of the question discussed here yesterday is still open to the same argument. I am not aware of any precedent of an adjournment being asked for on the second day after the defeat of a ministry, without some announcement more pertinent to the occasion being made, or some foundation on public grounds being shown why the House should adjourn. We might have been expected, on the second day after the crisis, to have addressed His Excellency, or have given notice of an address praying him to form a strong administration to carry on the affairs of the country. That would have been no disrespect. We would have been only offering that advice which we have a right to give on an occasion of such importance. The hon. member for Kingston said yesterday and repeats to-day that the Government had tendered advice to His Excellency, but nothing as to the nature of the communication could be made known. No doubt he required time to deliberate on the course to be pursued, and believing the statement made by the hon. gentleman, as to what the Government had done, and the position in which they are placed, as far as I am concerned, will now propose to press the question. This state of things cannot, at the season of the year, last much longer. The patience of the House and the country would soon be exhausted were this crisis to continue. It was necessary that a Government should be speedily formed and the business of the country proceeded with. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—I desire to occupy the time of this House for all instant, on a matter somewhat personal to myself—which has been made personal to me. I think, however, I understand that, while I was out of the House the other night, the hon. member for Montreal Centre (Mr. Rose) charged me with having violated the obligations of personal friendship heretofore existing between the hon. Finance Minister and myself, by the course that I saw fit, in the discharge of my duty as a member of this House, to adopt in reference to the motion which was under debate on Tuesday last. I desire to ask the hon. member for Montreal Centre whether I have been correctly informed—whether he did, in the debate, and afterwards, elsewhere, charge me with having, by an act of mine in this House, been guilty of violating the obligations of private friendship in reference to the hon. Finance Minister?

Hon. Mr. ROSE—I am not aware that the hon. gentleman had any right to ask me what occurred in the public debates in this House. What I stated was in the hearing of every member of this House; and what I may have stated out of doors, privately, to any person and individually responsible for. (Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—The answer does not surprise me, knowing as I do that hon. gentleman. But, out of courtesy to him and respect to the House, I chose to put the question, before proceeding with any remarks on this matter. I took occasion, it having become my duty, as I conceived, to speak to the motion in the debate, after replying to the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Gait) to state, in the strongest terms I could use, that he was entirely mistaken in attempting to make a personal quarrel of this motion; that it was wholly a political issue; that I wished, at all events, to invite the judgment of Parliament upon an administrative act of a former government with which that hon. gentleman was connected; and that it was in no respect an attack on himself personally, on his integrity or honor, so far as it was concerned. (Hear, hear, and cheer.) I stated it explicitly, and I think that every hon. gentleman will confirm my assertions. But are we to be deterred, because my happen to have had private personal