

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MONDAY, June 20th, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

### BILLS FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

The SPEAKER announced to the House the receipt of a number of bills from the Legislative Assembly for the concurrence of the Legislative Council. The bills were read a first time, and ordered for a second reading to-morrow.

### INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Hon. Col. TACHE laid on the table a Return to an Address from the Legislative Council for papers relating to the Intercolonial Railway since last session.

### THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Hon. Col. TACHE said that on Friday night last he had announced to the House that negotiations had been entered into with a prominent member of the Legislative Assembly—the Hon. George Brown. These negotiations had made some progress; but, as the subject was one of great importance and magnitude, some slight difficulties had occurred, which he hoped he would be able to announce the solution of to-morrow. He would, therefore, move that the House do now adjourn.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSSON BLAIR had no desire to embarrass the Government, and would not, of course, oppose this motion. But he would remain here, gentlemen opposite that the vote of the Legislative Assembly had taken place on Tuesday night last; and, at this season of the year, it was most inconvenient for members to be detained a moment longer than possible. He hoped, therefore, that no unnecessary delay would take place in bringing the negotiations to a conclusion.

Hon. Col. TACHE could assure this House that the Government were fully alive to the importance of an early prorogation of Parliament. He had good reason to believe that a satisfactory solution of the difficulties would be found by to-morrow, and that he would then be able to make a definite announcement to the House.

The Council then adjourned, at twenty minutes past three o'clock.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, June 20th, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

After the presentation and reading of petitions and other routine business—

### HAMILTON ELECTION COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. S. SMITH moved that the Hamilton City Election Committee have leave to adjourn until Saturday, July 2nd.—Carried.

### MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

When the Orders of the Day were called—

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD rose and said—Immediately after the adjournment on Friday last, a conference was held between three members of the Government and the hon. member for South Oxford (Mr. Brown) for the purpose of establishing a basis on which future Governmental action might be had. We had also several meetings on Saturday, and two meetings to-day. I am enabled to state that although grave questions—the gravest questions—have arisen, and although the difficulties are very great that surround any attempt at a solution of the questions which it is hoped will settle the sectional feelings between the two sections of the Province, yet we have made considerable—I may say great—progress, and such progress that I believe we shall be able to arrive—and have every reason to hope we shall be able to arrive at a basis on which both parties can agree. The subject is so complex in its nature—there are so many questions to be settled—that we have not been able yet to arrive at a conclusion which can be presented to the House; and we are therefore compelled to ask it to adjourn until to-morrow. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he was willing to express the same view in reference to this matter as he had done the other day. The difficulties connected with this question demanded that the Government of the day should have ample time to consider it in all its bearings; but he repeated, at the same time, that he would like the hon. Attorney General West to state whether any basis had been agreed upon, or a proposition for reconstruction, or proposals to that effect had taken place. However, if that hon. gentleman informed the House that matters were in such a stage—that prudence prevented further disclosures, he (Mr. Macdonald) would be satisfied with that, as far as he was concerned. The subject under consideration was of such very great importance that Ministers should be allowed another day, and as far as he was concerned, he should

not grudge them the delay asked for. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—I hope that my honorable friend will accept my thanks and those of my colleagues for his consideration. It would not be for the interests of the grave questions we are trying to settle—it would be highly impudent that we should lay any half-measures before the House. We ought to come down here with a full statement of the basis that may be agreed upon; and the announcement of the success or failure of our negotiations, should they fail; and to be in a position to do so, I ask for further delay. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RANKIN would like to hear something on this matter from the hon. member for South Oxford.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—it is my duty to endorse what has fallen from the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. J. A. Macdonald); and I will take this opportunity of saying to my friends of this House, with whom I have not had an opportunity fully to consult, that when the basis shall be arrived at I will communicate it to them. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RANKIN hoped that when those gentlemen had arrived at a basis satisfactory to themselves, they would give the House an opportunity to consider whether it was desirable or not to accede to the propositions agreed upon. He trusted that the parties negotiating would be as considerate in dealing with the House as it had been with them; and he hoped that the hon. gentlemen now in communication would meet each other in such a spirit as to give, at least, a guarantee of the patriotism of their intentions. He had no doubt that it was practicable to form a Ministry out of the country and command a majority in Parliament. He therefore felt it to be right to say that in the event of the present negotiations failing, he was not prepared to admit that other negotiations might not be attempted and brought to a satisfactory conclusion. (Hear, hear.)

The House then, at half-past three p.m., adjourned on motion of Hon. J. A. Macdonald.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 21st June, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

### CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS.

The Hon. Mr. SEYMOUR presented the third Report of the Committee on Contingencies, which was ordered to be taken into consideration to-morrow.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

The time relating to the reception of private bills was, on motion of Hon. Col. TACHE, extended until Tuesday, 28th inst.

### THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Hon. Sir E. P. TACHE stated that the basis of the negotiations which had been opened some days ago, and continued until to-day, had been accepted. There were, however, some matters of detail to be arranged, and he hoped to-morrow to be able to lay the whole negotiations before the House. He therefore moved the adjournment of the House.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSSON BLAIR said he was aware that the custom was during the time of a Ministerial crisis to adjourn from day to day. But he thought it might be advisable to go through the private bills and advance them a stage.

Hon. Sir E. P. TACHE had no objection, if the House so desired it, that the unopposed private bills should be advanced a stage.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST said that as the statement was made that the basis of the negotiations had been accepted, it was due to the House that that basis should be made known. Matters of detail, which were not yet decided upon, of course the House had no right yet to be informed concerning them.

Hon. Sir E. P. TACHE said the hon. gentleman had himself been an Executive Councillor, and must be aware that there were things which could not be made known to Parliament. The details of which he spoke were intimately connected with the basis, and he could not therefore make any statement. He could assure the House that when the statement was made to-morrow, it would be found to afford to the House the fullest information, and he hoped satisfaction.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSSON BLAIR said that the basis having been agreed upon, he considered that the House should be placed in possession of it. When it was submitted to-morrow, those who were in the secrets of the principal parties to the negotiations would be placed at a disadvantage; a discussion of it would probably take place. There were various rumors as to the negotiations, which implied important constitutional changes, and it was desirable

that the House should be put in possession of them as soon as possible.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said it was most undesirable that an incomplete statement should be made. His hon. friend the Premier had already announced that to-morrow he would be able to lay before the House a full statement of the negotiations; but it must be manifest that the terms on which such a statement was made were matters of great importance, and should be agreed upon by the parties to it before it was made.

After a few remarks from the Hon. Mr. LETELLIER, which were inaudible in the gallery, the House adjourned at half-past three o'clock.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, June 21st, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

After the presentation and reading of petitions and other business—

### RUSSELL ELECTION COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. ROSE moved that the Committee appointed to try and determine the merits of a petition, complaining of an undue election and return for the County of Russell, have leave to adjourn to the second day of next session, at eleven o'clock a.m.—Carried.

### MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD rose and said—Before the orders of the day are called, I beg leave to inform the House that a basis has been arrived at, on which the hon. member for South Oxford and the members of the Government can agree. Although we have arrived at that basis, some details remain to be completed before a full statement can be laid before the House. In consequence of the numerous discussions that have taken place, not only between the member for South Oxford and the members of the Government who have had interviews with him, but between that hon. gentleman himself and those who usually act with him, as well as between the members of the Government and those who usually work with them, these details could not be arranged to allow of a full statement being made to-day. But I confidently hope that matters will be in a position to allow of a comprehensive statement respecting the basis of the agreement and the details being made to-morrow; and with that view, I ask that when this House adjourns, it stand adjourned until to-morrow at three o'clock. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. DORION—Of course there can be no objection to an adjournment of the House. I am sure that hon. gentlemen on both sides know the extreme anxiety on the part of all the members to have some settlement arrived at, and that no more time be taken up than is absolutely necessary.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—I apprehend there will be no difficulty as to the matter of granting time. I take it that it is understood that a basis has been agreed upon. As to further negotiations, it is due that hon. gentlemen on the Treasury Benches should receive every facility from the House to carry out all their arrangements. The House is, however, anxious to know if any written basis has been arrived at. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—I think we must crave the forbearance of the House and the hon. gentleman till to-morrow. We have all got our difficulties, as the hon. gentleman well knows; and I do not think it would be well to make any statement to this House that might involve a discussion before the whole matter is submitted for further consideration by the parties in conference. I think that any interlocutory discussion just now would be most unfortunate; and that we should ask the forbearance of this House, and also my hon. friend the member for Cornwall (Hon. J. S. Macdonald), not to press his views.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER repeated, in French, the explanations which had been given in English by the Hon. Attorney General West.

Hon. Mr. DORION replied in French, repeating the remarks he had made in English.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD—As this House can well understand, at such an important crisis, there have been very lengthy discussions, and several propositions have been made between the parties who are conferring for the purpose of arriving at a basis of agreement. The basis has been a matter of compromise. Both parties have made concessions for the purpose of procuring that compromise. There will be a full, detailed statement of all the proceedings laid before the House, as soon as the details are complete; and it would not be fair to either of the conferring parties if the final result were made known in its naked terms at this time. (Hear, hear.) It is incumbent on us not to reveal any of the preliminary dis-