

Hon. Mr. CARLING consented to withdraw his amendment; but on a suggestion from the Hon. Mr. Brown, the amendment was declared lost on a division.

The Bill was then read a second time and referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Messrs. Buchanan, Morris, McIntyre, Walsh, Chambers, Smith (of Durham), Dankin, Labreche-Viger, Abbott, Thibaudau, Langevin, Bourassa and Chapatis.

The House then adjourned at ten minutes to eleven.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, March 10th, 1864.

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Among the petitions presented quite a number, as on former days, were in favor of the enactment of the Temperance Bill of 1863.

Sundry returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths were submitted by the Speaker.

### PRINTING COMMITTEE.

On motion of Hon. Mr. FERGUSON BLAIR, the Committee on Printing, already appointed by the House, was authorized to act in concert with the Printing Committee of the Legislative Assembly in a Joint Committee. The resolution to be communicated to the Assembly.

### FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were then introduced and read a first time:—

By Hon. Mr. FERRIER—Bill to amend the Act relating to the Corporation of Montreal, and for other purposes.

By the same—Bill to amend the Act and extend the privileges of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railway Company, and to enable them to erect a station in the city of Montreal.

By Hon. Mr. OLIVIER—Bill to incorporate the Provincial Forwarding Company (limited).

### COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND COMMERCE.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON moved that the *quorum* of this Committee be reduced to seven.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL thought that such motions should be made in the form of Reports from the Committees themselves, and not appear to rest on the opinion of a single member.

Hon. Mr. ROSS said it was by desire of the Committee itself, or at least of nearly the whole of them, that the motion was made.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON said the same, and remarked upon the difficulty of gathering a larger *quorum*.

The motion was then put and carried.

### OATH RELIEF BILL.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE moved the postponement of the order for the second reading of this Bill until Wednesday next, as he expected by that time to have information he desired to make use of in connection with the subject.—Carried.

The House then adjourned.

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1864.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

### PETITIONS.

Mr. MACDONALD (of Toronto) presented several petitions from the people of Toronto—some of them thirty feet long, and bearing 1,150 names—praying for the passage of Mr. Dunkin's Temperance Bill. Hon. Mr. Dorion, Hon. Mr. Rose, Hon. Mr. Cartier, and Hon. Mr. McCoe, each presented from ten to fifteen different petitions for the same object, from the people of Montreal and vicinity. One of those presented by Hon. Mr. Rose bore 2,070 names. Hon. Mr. Mowat and Messrs. Dunkin, Macfarlane, White, and others presented similar petitions.

### BILLS INTRODUCED.

To incorporate the South Ham Copper Mining Company.—Mr. Irvine.

To incorporate the Nicolet Antimony Mining Company.—Mr. Irvine.

To incorporate the Grand and Subordinate Division of the Sons of Temperance of Canada East.—Mr. McKellar.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. MORRIS moved that the time for receiving petitions for Private Bills be extended to the 31st of March; for the receiving of Private Bills to the 8th of April, and for reports upon the latter, to the 22nd of April.—Carried.

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Hon. Mr. BROWN moved that the Public Accounts of 1863 be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.—Carried.

### SEIGNORIAL MONIES.

Mr. WEBB enquired whether it was the intention of the Government to pay each of the Municipalities of Lower Canada, this year, the amounts due to them under the Seigniorial Act of 1859; and if not this year, when it is their intention to pay the same.

Hon. Mr. DORION replied that it was the intention of the Govt. to pay the amounts as soon as they could ascertain what they were, and this could not be ascertained until the Commissioner made his report. He was informed that the report would be made about the middle of April, immediately after which the respective amounts will be paid with interest.

Mr. PRICE desired to know, further, why such Municipalities were being called upon to pay up their indebtedness to the Municipal Loan Fund.

Hon. Mr. DORION replied that all Municipalities indebted, both in Upper and Lower Canada, were being called upon to pay up; but he had taken special pains to see that no Municipality holding claims against the Seigniorial Fund should be sued.

Mr. PRICE asked why they were being called upon to make returns to the Government. He had advised them not to do so.

Hon. Mr. DORION replied that all the Municipalities were obliged to make returns every year, and he would recommend the hon. gentleman to give his constituents better advice.

### PRINTING ACCOUNTS.

On the motion of Mr. JACKSON for a detailed Statement of all accounts for public Printing, Book-binding, Stationery, Blank books, paid by several Departments, and offices subordinate to Departments, since the 24th day of May, 1862,

Mr. MACKENZIE said he thought it was desirable that the House should have a correct return of all such accounts. But he observed, looking at this motion, that it specified a particular date, namely the 24th of May, 1862; this was the date of the entry of the Macdonald-Scott Administration upon office, and it was plainly shown that the hon. member wanted simply the accounts of the late and the present Governments. He (Mr. M.) thought it was exceedingly desirable that the motion should be altered so as to embrace a larger field. He would, therefore, move an amendment to the motion. The amendment was to the effect that the accounts for printing, book-binding, etc., should be presented from the first of January, 1860, till the 24th of May, 1862. The amendment was seconded by Mr. McKellar.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER desired to point out to hon. gentlemen opposite that all the information which was sought to be obtained by the motion of the member for Lambton would, no doubt, be found in the Report of the Financial and Departmental Commission, which they lauded as so complete, so accurate and so truthful. (Hear, hear.) But the fact of the matter was the real object of the motion in amendment was to delay the information sought for by the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Jackson) and to raise an obstacle in its way. Hon. gentlemen opposite were always talking about the alleged extravagance of the past Government in the matter of stationery and printing accounts; but they appeared to have forgotten altogether that these accounts which were so loudly condemned had, in the year 1862, been referred to a Special Committee for examination, and the result of that investigation was that they found the accounts to be all right, and only made a deduction of two hundred dollars. (Hear, hear and cheers.) Now if the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Mackenzie) wanted to refresh his knowledge on this point, let him refer to the report of that Committee. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. FOLEY said that if we were to have these returns, asked for by the hon. members for Grey and Lambton brought down, it would, in his opinion, be better that we should have them separately. But if he (Mr. Foley) recollectied rightly, we already had the information demanded by the hon. member for Lambton. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. A. MACKENZIE said there were a number of accounts yet to be brought to light. He went on to say that he desired to have the expenditures of both periods brought down, side by side, in parallel columns. (Hear, hear.)

AN HON. MEMBER—Make a distinct motion.

Mr. A. MACKENZIE—No, I will not.

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD was understood to say that he had no objection to the amend-

ment. At the same time, he would say that this step of moving an amendment to a substantive motion for an address for papers was an unusual way of doing business. The amendment was in the usual style of argument of hon. gentlemen opposite. It just amounted to this—"If we were extravagant; if we did what was wrong, your own conduct was a great deal worse."

Mr. T. FERGUSON was in favor of having the return under distinct heads, so that we could see at a glance the expenditures under each Government—the Cartier-Macdonald, the Macdonald-Scott, and the Macdonald-Dorion administration. The case was entirely against hon. gentlemen opposite, notwithstanding the outcry which they had raised about alleged extravagance. The facts as they now stood were against them, and any investigation or research into the matter would only result in a still more marked discomfiture. Some two years ago we were told, for instance, that there had been such an excessive supply of stationery furnished to the Crown Lands Department as to last for ten years. And what was the case now? Why, a casual visit to the Department assured him (Mr. Ferguson) of the fact that the floors were covered with boxes containing a new supply of stationery. It appeared, in fact, that during the past year no less than nine thousand dollars' worth had been supplied to that Department by Mr. Blackburn, the proprietor of the Government organ in this city. Yet hon. gentlemen opposite made charges of extravagance! (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Had they forgotten that these stationery accounts—these great stationery jobs about which we had heard so much, and upon which this attack on the Cartier-Macdonald Government was based, had, in 1862, been referred to a committee of which the hon. member for Halton (Mr. White) was chairman, and it appeared there was no ground for these attacks? Was the hon. member for Halton ashamed of his own report that he did not stand up in this House and justify it? (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The hon. gentleman virtually reported that there was no overcharge, and only recommended a deduction of \$198 on a balance of over \$4,000. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WHITE said it was only the unpaid stationery accounts that had been referred to that Committee.

Mr. T. FERGUSON said that if he recollectied rightly, the Committee had not only entered into the investigation of the unpaid accounts, but they had examined all accounts and even gone into the subject of advances, for they spoke of an advance of \$7,000 to Mr. Foote, and concluded by reporting in favor of paying him a balance of \$4,000 which was due to him. In fact, the Committee had considered the whole question fully.

Mr. WHITE—No, nothing of the kind.

Mr. POWELL said it was a remarkable fact that hon. gentlemen on the Ministerial benches, and their supporters, had nothing but the *us quoque* argument to fall back upon. They say that they could only shine by comparison, and they accordingly fell back upon that line of argument. He (Mr. Powell) was not opposed to having information on the facts under discussion. On the contrary, he wished to have the whole subject, and he was very sorry his hon. friend from Grey had not included advertising and the circulation of the newspapers in his motion. (Hear, hear.) If the hon. member for Lambton really wanted to get this return, why did he not make a distinct motion? The tactics of hon. gentlemen in endeavoring to justify themselves by assailing their opponents, were such that one of the members of the Financial and Departmental Commission, the gentleman who wrote for the Government organ in this city, told them to abandon their parish politics, and give up finding fault with their predecessors.

Mr. T. FERGUSON said that he had made a statement, a moment ago, about the stationery accounts of 1861-62 and the action of the Committee upon them, which had been denied by the hon. member Halton (Mr. White) the chairman of the Committee. He (Mr. Ferguson) would now read from the report in order to prove that what he had said was strictly correct. The hon. gentleman then quoted from the report to show that the Committee had submitted to them "all the accounts for 1861-62"; that an advance of \$7,000 had been made; that an unnecessary quantity of material had been furnished to the Crown Lands Department; and that, after deducting all advances and considering the whole subject, there was still a balance of \$4,000 due to Mr. Foote.