

Mr. F. Jones said the honourable member for West Durham was the first to accuse honourable members of mercenary motives. He (Mr. J.) said his experience of honourable members for seven years was that honourable gentlemen were above such imputations.

Mr. Walsh said a fair allowance for mileage should be made, placing all upon the same footing, or none at all.

The amendment was put and lost.

Sir John A. Macdonald, moved that the committee rise and report the bill without amendment, and a third reading be ordered on Monday next. Carried.

BEAUHARNOIS ELECTION PETITION

On the question of receiving the petition presented on Wednesday against the return of Mr. Cayley for Beauharnois,

Hon. Mr. Holton said the law provided that electoral petitions must be presented within the first fourteen days of the session. This petition was presented on the fifteenth.

Sir John A. Macdonald said the objection suggested two questions:—First, Whether Wednesday was the fourteenth or fifteenth day of the session—that is, whether the session commenced on the 6th instant, when His Excellency directed the House to elect a Speaker, or on the following day, when the Governor delivered his speech. Secondly—if the fourteen days had elapsed, whether objections should be taken to the reception of the petition, or whether it was a preliminary objection to be taken before the Election Committee. He suggested that the motion stand till to-morrow. Agreed.

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

Several routine motions having been carried, which had been read to the House only in English.

Hon. Mr. Chauveau complained of the frequency of this practice, and claimed that the whole of the routine business should be transacted in both languages. There were five or six members of the House who did not under-

stand English at all, and more than twenty others who could not understand a statement in that language so intelligibly as in French.

Hon. Mr. Dunkin hoped that in future the suggestion of his honourable friend would be carried out. It should be remembered, that in the Quebec Parliament there would be an English minority who did not understand French, and the same right which would be claimed for the minority to have all proceedings in both languages should also be extended to the minority here.

Speaker Cockburn said that hitherto all motions, except those of mere routine, had been put in both languages. He would see that in future the practice included all proceedings.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

The orders of the day being called,

Hon. Mr. Holton said that when the Minister of Justice read a memorandum the other evening, stating the subjects which in this part of the session would be brought before the House, he (Mr. Holton) failed to catch the word "currency". We were at present in this anomalous position that we had money, to wit, the Provincial notes, which was legal tender in this part of the Dominion, but not in the Lower Provinces. If they were to assimilate the dues payable to Government, they should assimilate at the same time the money in which those dues were payable.

Sir John said the question whether such a measure would be introduced in the first part of the session was under consideration of the Government.

COMMERCIAL BANK

On motion of Sir J. A. Macdonald, the Bill to amend the Act of Incorporation of the Commercial Bank, to authorize its amalgamation with any other bank or banks, or its winding up, was read a second time, and referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

On motion of Sir John A. Macdonald, the 62nd rule of the House was suspended in reference to the said Bill.