

THE SENATE

Thursday, Dec. 5, 1867.

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

After routine

THE JUDICIARY.

Hon. Mr. McCully moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House a statement showing the total expenses of the Judiciary of the Dominion of Canada, so far as the same are chargeable on the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the quarter next commencing on the 1st July, 1867.

What proportion chargeable to Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick respectively.

To whom paid, when, in what capacity, for what services, and in what courts respectively, distinguishing salaries from travelling or other charges.

What amount for pensions, date of commencement of the same, names of recipients, where resident, and for what services?

What amount for criminal prosecution in each of the Provinces, names of recipients as prosecuting officers, nature of the offences prosecuted, distinguishing those for which convictions were obtained with the punishments awarded.—Carried.

MARINE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell moved that the Bill relating to the organization of the Marine and Fisheries Department, be now read a third time.—Carried, passed, and ordered to be sent to the House of Commons.

POSTAL BILL (IN COMMITTEE).

Pursuant to order the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill for the regulation of the postal service.

Hon. Mr. Campbell moved the first clause.

Hon. Mr. Odell said that before proceeding further he desired to make a few observations in reply to some of the statements the Hon. Postmaster-General had made in the course of his speech on the occasion of the second reading of the bill, with reference to the postal service in the Province of New Brunswick. His first remarks would relate to payment to

the railways. The honorable gentleman had stated that there was no payment made in New Brunswick for service of this kind, and the Hon. Minister of Marine had corroborated the statement saying at the same time that he held the accounts in his hands, and that no charge of this kind appeared in them. At so great a distance from the place, it was difficult to get all the data that were required, but he (Mr. Odell) had found the Journals of New Brunswick in the Library, and he could now say with certainty that in this respect at least the hon. gentlemen were both mistaken. In his own (Mr. Odell's) report for the year 1865, when he had the honor to be Postmaster-General in New Brunswick, and at page 29, he found this item, "paid to European and N. A. Railway for mail service between St. John and Shediac, \$3,240 for six trips per week during the year, the distance being 108 miles and the miles travelled 67,392. Besides this, there was \$500 paid to D. W. Turner, for conveying and taking charge of the mails between St. John and Shediac Post Offices per E. and N. A. Railway" for the same year. Further there was paid to Expresses from "the Bend" to St. John, per E. and N. A. Railway, \$480; total paid for railway service in New Brunswick in 1865, \$4,220. These items would be found at pages 29 and 30 of the Postmaster-General's Report for that year. He hoped these data would be considered sufficient and tend to rectify the error into which the Hon. Postmaster-General had, no doubt unintentionally, fallen. The next point to which he desired to refer was the "drop letters". The Hon. Postmaster-General had stated that in Canada, the charge upon such letters was 2 cents and the same in New Brunswick, but that in New Brunswick the system extended to the American frontier towns, that is to say that a letter dropped into the post office of a frontier town in New Brunswick was delivered in an adjoining frontier town in the United States for two cents. This was also a misapprehension. The "drop letter" system in New Brunswick was precisely the same as in Canada, and confined as in Canada to posting and delivery at the same post office. It was true that an informal and unauthorized practice had sprung up at Woodstock in New Brunswick, of receiving letters for two cents and delivering them in the adjoining American town of Holton, and that it had lasted for a short time, but in all other parts of New Brunswick the "drop letter" system had always been confined to the office at which the letters were posted. It happened that a former Postmaster-General