

Mr. Mackenzie—Who are they to be?

Sir John A. Macdonald had not the slightest idea.

Hon. Mr. Holton said he could not of course ask the honourable gentleman to communicate the information he had received regarding the line, if such communication would not be to the public interest.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. TUPPER

Hon. Mr. Holton desired information as to the appointment of Dr. Tupper in the matter of the appeal of Nova Scotia to the Imperial authorities.

Sir John A. Macdonald said that at the time of the appointment he had notified the House that the appointment had been made in order that the honourable gentleman should be at hand to give information to the Imperial authorities on the subject treated of in the petition from Nova Scotia regarding severance from the Union. He had no authority of any kind except to be at hand to give such information. Therefore no official communication had been received from him. A few private letters had been received, but of no public consequence.

SUPPLY BILL AGAIN

On the **Hon. Mr. Rose's** motion for the third reading of the Supply Bill,

Mr. Jones spoke at length on the subject of the acquisition of the North-West as one of the prime objects of Confederation. Nothing of any consequence has been done towards that settlement, and worse still, the little movement that had been made had only resulted in the discomfiture of the Parliament of the Dominion. Whether intentionally or not, deception had been practised on the people of the Dominion, and the only result of the movement in this matter was that they were invited to step into the old shoes of Great Britain on this subject.

Mr. Blake said that at a previous sitting he had given it as his opinion that in this question of the annexation of the North-West the Parliament was proceeding a little too fast. Before Government proposed to pass such an address as had been asked at that time, Government ought to have ascertained whether such an address would be acceptable to the Imperial authorities. Then, too, it was understood that there was to be a cession of the whole territory free from the Company's

claim. According to the last dispatch of the Colonial Secretary, it appeared that we are not to get the whole territory, and the claims of the Company are reserved. Again it was said we were to settle our dispute with the Company in our own courts; but it turned out that it was not to be the case. Next it was said the payment was to be a money payment, and that it would be provided for by a guaranteed loan, but it now appeared that that portion of the Governmental programme had also fallen through. Again, it was said there was to be an immediate cession of the territory, but it now appeared that was not to take place till those rights had been recognized. Altogether the whole policy of the Dominion Government had been reversed, and either this Government had a grave cause of quarrel with the Imperial Government, or they had grossly misled the House.

Dr. Parker also alluded to the false position assumed by the Dominion Government on this point; a position which had been repudiated by the Imperial authorities. He regretted something had not been done to open up the North-West Territory, or at least to afford correct information as to its resources. At present very little was practically known about that country. It seemed to him that in this, as on other great public questions, the Government had been tried and found wanting. From the day they entered on office to the present time, they had throughout been characterized as a weak, inefficient administration. If the Union was to be maintained, there must be an administration pursuing an essentially difficult financial policy. The members of the Government must not do as the Commissioner for Public Works had done—mislead the House on an important point such as this. That honourable gentleman did not occupy the most satisfactory of positions, and ought to be more careful of his assertions.

Hon. Mr. McDougall, in reply to the member for West Durham, said that on all the points alluded to, the action of the Imperial authorities was to be regretted; but were the Dominion Government to blame because the Imperial authorities had not taken the desired action? They were not. The Government of the Dominion was contending for a certain position, and it was not for them to concede what had been asked by the Company. Were the Government of the Dominion to be held responsible for the present failure because they had not recognized the rights of the Company? He thought they had rightly