

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, November 22, 1867

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Langevin presented the first report of the Standing Committee on contingencies, and moved that its quorum be reduced to seven members. Carried.

COMMITTEE ON EXPIRING LAWS

Hon. Mr. Gray presented the first report of the Standing Committee on expiring laws, and moved that its quorum be reduced to five members. Carried.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Howland presented the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and moved that its quorum be reduced to seven members; also, that the public accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1866, be referred to the said committee. Carried.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

Mr. Mackenzie presented the first report of the joint Committee on Printing, and moved that its quorum be reduced to seven members. Carried.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY LOAN

Sir John A. Macdonald gave notice that on Tuesday he would move that the House do, on Thursday, resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions respecting the loan of three millions sterling for the Intercolonial Railway.

RIGHT OF MINISTERS TO SIT IN THE HOUSE

Mr. Blake gave notice that, on Monday, he would call the attention of the House to a subject alluded to in a former debate, namely, the right of his honourable friends on the Treasury benches to occupy their seats in this House. (Hear, hear, and laughter).

INDEMNITY TO MEMBERS

On motion of Sir John A. Macdonald the second reading of the Bill relating to Indemnity of Members and Salaries of the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament was taken up.

Hon. Mr. Dorion said the theory of the sessional allowance of six hundred dollars was, that as the session was expected to last one hundred days the pay would be six dollars a day. As a matter of fact, however, in 1865 there were two sessions, lasting ninety-nine days, and members got eleven dollars seventy cents per day for one session and \$15 for the other. In 1863, also, there were two sessions, and the pay equalled \$9.67 per day in the one session, and \$7.69 in the other. The true principle, he contended, was a fixed per diem allowance. He did not intend to divide the House, but did not wish by his silence to have it supposed that he acquiesced in the Bill.

Mr. Blake said it would be a waste of time to propose an amendment to the Bill. He admitted that the Government had a reasonable excuse for the principle upon which the Bill was based, it having been admitted by the Parliament of the late Province of Canada, still he must characterize it as a vicious principle. With regard to mileage, he hoped a better system would be arrived at. The honourable Minister of Justice had said the principle of constructive mileage was wrong and immoral. He agreed with the position of the leader of the Government in that respect. He referred to the views enunciated by the members from the Maritime Provinces. They had only the statements of a few honourable members as to the facts. He suggested that ten cents per mile was too much in Upper Canada, and showed that his own mileage at that rate would be more than double what it cost him. He proposed that every member should receive what he would certify to be his necessary travelling expenses up to a maximum of ten cents per mile.