

6. Nothing in this Act shall prevent the Court from ordering a rehearing in any cause if notwithstanding the provisions herein made, they deem such rehearing requisite.

7. The word "Judge" in this Act includes the Chief Justice, or Assistant Judge of the Court, unless the context requires a different construction.

A PRISONER IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

We are accustomed to hear of honourable members being taken into custody by the Serjeant-at-Arms, but the arrest of a stranger within the precincts of the Legislative buildings is of such rare occurrence, that we may be excused for noticing the facts of the case at some length.

On the evening of the 31st July, during a debate, Mr. HOLTON rose in his place, and stated that a grave assault had been committed within the last four minutes upon the person of a member of the House, Mr. J. B. E. DORION, the member for Drummond and Arthabaska, by Mr. *Elzéar Gérin Lajoie*. After some discussion respecting the proper course to be adopted, it was decided that the statement of the member assaulted should be heard before the Speaker issued his warrant.

Mr. DORION then made the following statement:—"I had occasion to go to the library about three quarters of an hour ago (half past 10, P. M.) I was taking some books from the library when I was called on by Mr. *Elzéar Gérin Lajoie*, editor of *Le Canada*, published in Ottawa, who requested me to take a seat which he had just occupied in a corner of the library. I refused to take the seat he had just occupied, but sat down on a stool which was next to him. He commenced a series of questions about an article which appeared in *Le Défricheur*, of which I am the proprietor. After a few words of explanation with regard to the article which appeared in that paper, he became very much excited, and used very abusive language towards me. I cannot exactly recollect the words. They were very impertinent and insulting. As I did not wish to carry on conversation of that description, I rose up from my seat to leave

him alone, whereupon he began an attack upon me, by striking me in the face with his closed hand. I protected myself as well as I could. He struck me several times with his closed hand in the face and on the head, until some of the parties who were in the room, took him away, and prevented him from doing me any further injury."

After this statement, the Attorney General West, and other members, stated that the Speaker had a perfect right to issue his warrant immediately. Mr. CAUCHON, however, maintained that in similar cases previously, the matter had been discussed in the House before making the arrest. On motion of Mr. Attorney General MACDONALD, it was then ordered, that Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the Serjeant-at-Arms, authorizing and requiring him to take into his custody, *Elzéar Gérin Lajoie*, for the assault committed by him upon the Honorable Member for Drummond and Arthabaska, and bring him to the bar of this House forthwith.

The Speaker then issued his warrant, and the arrest was made forthwith, whilst the proceedings of the House were continued, Mr. Lajoie being at the time seated in the reporters' gallery. On the following day, the Serjeant-at-Arms reported to the House, that in obedience to the Speaker's warrant, he had taken Mr. Gérin Lajoie into custody. The prisoner was then called in, and the complaint read to him by the Clerk, whereupon Mr. LAJOIE made the following statement:—

"Feeling myself grossly insulted by an article published in *Le Défricheur*, a newspaper edited by the Honorable Member for Drummond and Arthabaska, I was desirous of meeting with him in order that I might ask him for explanations upon the subject. I was yesterday evening in the library engaged in making some researches, when I saw the Honorable Member a few paces distant from me. I arose from the seat of the Assistant Librarian where I was working, and asked the Honorable Member for Drummond and Arthabaska if I might say a few words to him. He came towards the seat which I was occupying, and I offered him that seat; he preferred to seat himself on the stool beside it. I then asked what reason he considered himself to have for