HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 30, 1868

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

LIBRARY REPORT

The Joint Committee on the Library presented a report in which they asked to be relieved of the responsibility of deciding on the assistance to be given to publications by Canadian authors, by recommending that a certain number of such publications be ordered for the Library. They recommended that the Government should assume such responsibility. They recommended also that no works in the Library be allowed to be removed from Ottawa.

BAGOT ELECTION COMMITTEE

Mr. Walsh, from the General Committee on Elections, reported the following as the Committee appointed to try the Bagot Election—Messrs. Workman, Simard, Young, Robitaille, Joly,—Chairman.

FORTIFICATIONS

Sir G. E. Cartier moved that the House will to-morrow resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to provide for a sum, not exceeding 1,000,000 pounds sterling to defray the expenses of constructing works of fortifications for the defence of Montreal and other cities. He stated that he would bring up the resolutions for discussion to-morrow as the first order.

Mr. Mackenzie intimated that when the resolutions were moved, he would submit an amendment to them.

The motion was agreed to.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Hon. Mr. Rose moved concurrence in the resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means.

The resolutions were taken up "seriatim"—the excise resolutions first.

The first resolution adding three cents per gallon on spirits was agreed to.

On the second resolution imposing five cents per gallon on all petroleum and coal oil manufactured in Canada—

Mr. Mills thought this was an unwise imposition. At present prices petroleum only paid the cost of manufacture. Add this excise duty to the price, and it would be impossible to produce petroleum except at a loss.

The resolution was carried. Also the third and fourth. On the fifth resolution, **Mr. Oliver** objected to the provisions as to inspection and license coming into operation as soon as the 15th of June. He thought the 1st of July, the beginning of the financial year, would be a better date. Those who had large stocks on hand should have time to dispose of them, so as not to incur the additional cost of inspection.

Mr. Mackenzie thought two or three months should be allowed before enforcing the regulations as to inspection. With regard to stocks in hand, he hoped this would be provided for in the Bill.

The resolution was agreed to.

Then came the Customs resolutions.

The items, horses, fifteen dollars per head; horned cattle, ten dollars; swine, two dollars; sheep, one dollar;—having been moved,

Dr. Parker expressed disapproval of the specific principle, as applied to the duties levied on animals. It was not reasonable that the same fixed duty of $15 should be levied on a horse worth $200 and one worth $20. The duty, he thought, should be according to the value.

Mr. Gibbs said he concurred in the remarks made the other night by the Minister of Customs, that the *ad valorem* principle was a hardship when applied to the introduction of valuable animals for the improvement of stock, for which a fancy price had been paid. The difficulty might be got over by admitting such animals free.

Sir J. A. Macdonald said it was only valuable animals that were imported. Ordinary animals were exported rather than imported.