

March 27, 1874

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE then introduced the usual bill respecting the administration of oaths of office.

The SPEAKER informed the House that when the Commons attended His Excellency in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses, of which, to prevent mistakes, he had procured a copy.

The reading of the Speech was dispensed with.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE moved that the speech of His Excellency be taken into consideration on Monday next.—Carried.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE next moved the following resolutions:

That the votes and proceedings of the House be printed, being first perused by The Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing, thereof, and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.—Carried.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE also moved that select Standing Committees of this House for the present session be appointed for the following purposes, viz., (1) on privileges and elections; (2) on expiring laws; (3) on railways, canals and telegraph lines; (4) on miscellaneous private bills; (5) on standing orders; (6) on printing; (7) on public accounts; (8) on banking and commerce; (9) on immigration and colonization—which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon with power to send for persons, papers, and records.—Carried.

The remaining formal resolutions were carried.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the report of the Librarian of the House of Commons on the state of the Library of Parliament, and next called the attention of members to the reception to be

given by Lady Dufferin in the Senate Chamber this evening.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 3.50 p.m.

His Excellency the Earl and the Countess of Dufferin held a drawing room in the Senate Chamber this evening when a very large number of ladies and gentlemen were presented. Lord and Lady Dufferin entered the building shortly after 9 o'clock, being received by a guard of honour from the Governor General's Foot Guards. The band of the Guards, stationed in the vestibule, played "God Save the Queen" as the Governor General entered.

Lord and Lady Dufferin took up a position on the throne, supported by the Ministers, aides-de-camp, and staff officers. Presentations then commenced, according to precedence. Senators were presented first, the members of the House of Commons next, then high officials, civilians and officers of the militia. The presentations occupied over half an hour, the band of the Guards performing selections in the meantime. Shortly before ten o'clock Lord and Lady Dufferin left the building, and soon afterwards the assemblage dispersed.

The scene was a most brilliant one: the magnificent chamber, illuminated by innumerable jets of gas, formed the setting of a picture in which the gay dresses of the ladies and the bright hues of military costumes, contrasted with the sober civilian black, mingled in pleasing variety.

An adjourned meeting of the Press Gallery was held this afternoon and was largely attended. Several rules were adopted for the governance of the Gallery, including one prohibiting the admission of Civil Service employees to the gallery after this session, and another declaring that the President should be elected for the whole term of a Parliament.