

7.30 P.M.

Mr. *Mackenzie* presented,—Return to the Order of The House of the 1st April, last; for a Return showing in detail all fees paid by the Department of Justice, or by any other Department, or in connection with the Intercolonial Railroad, to Counsel and Attorneys in connection with any business before the Supreme Court since its formation, and the names of the Counsel and Attorneys, and the several suits in respect of which such fees were paid.

The Bill No. 80 for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial years ending respectively 30th June, 1878, and 30th June, 1879, and for other purposes relating to the public service, was read the second and a third time, and passed.

Mr. Speaker communicated the following letter, which he had received:—

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
OTTAWA, 9th May, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you, that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber to prorogue the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Friday, the 10th instant, at 3 o'clock P.M.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

E. G. P. LITTLETON,
Governor General's Secretary.

The Honorable
The Speaker of the House of Commons.

A Message was received from the Senate, agreeing to the two following Bills, without amendment, viz.:—

No. 78. To authorize the advance of certain sums to the Province of Manitoba, in aid of the Public Schools therein; and

No. 76. To amend the Act 37 *Victoria*, Chapter 8, intituled: "An Act to impose license duties on compounders of spirits; to amend the Act respecting the Inland Revenue, and to prevent the adulteration of Food, Drink, and Drugs."

Also,—acquainting this House, that the Senate doth not insist on its second amendment to the Bill No. 14 further securing the Independence of Parliament, to which this House doth disagree,—but that they do insist on its first amendment to which this House disagrees, and for the following reasons:—

1st. Because in view of our system of Government, under which the people of the different Provinces are represented in Local Legislatures, and in general Parliament, a large number of suitable representatives is needed as compared to the educated population and it is unwise to restrict the choice of the people by declaring ineligible a class likely to present from education and knowledge of affairs, persons with strong claims to the confidence of an electorate.

2nd. Because when once a Superannuation allowance is granted under the Statute, to retired Public Officers, it becomes an indefeasable right and cannot be withheld at the discretion of Ministers of the Crown, or except for cause defined in the Statute.

3rd. Because the Superannuation Act is administered under the responsibility of Ministers of the Crown to Parliament, and they would be amenable to the censure of Parliament for any infringement of public or private rights in connection therewith.

4th. Because the tenor of Imperial Legislation of late years has been to justify the presence of retired Civil Servants in both Houses of Parliament, on account of the great public advantage to be derived from their knowledge and experience in public affairs; and no inconvenience has resulted from their liability (under any circumstances very remote) of being recalled to the Public Service.