

Office of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.. \$20,677 50

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The other evening I explained to the committee the increases, except one. There was \$750 for a clerk named Foley, that had been transferred from another Department, to whom we gave an increase of \$50. The other increases are all \$50, except for the door-keeper, McNaughton, who has been there such a long time that we gave him \$100.

Resolutions to be reported, Committee to sit again.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 1:10 a.m., Wednesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 21st April, 1886.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

RULES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. DAWSON moved :

That the 51st rule of the House be amended so as to provide for the publication of notices in the Territories of Canada, pursuant to the recommendation of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. BLAKE. We cannot amend a rule of the House without notice. The hon. gentleman had better give notice.

Mr. DAWSON. The chairman of the committee will probably explain.

Mr. SPEAKER. Notice must be given.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 111) respecting Insurance (from the Senate).—
(Mr. Thompson.)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. BLAKE. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to refer to a personal matter. On 5th April, in the course of a debate with respect to the North-West Territories, the Minister of the Interior, referring to a statement made by the hon. member for Queen's, P.E.I. (Mr. Davies), as to the condition of the order of the papers which are printed, and which have been under reference several times, said, in answer to a remark I made, that "they are printed the way they are brought down."

"They were in the hon. gentleman's hands for weeks."

To which I replied :

"They were not; I got them copied."

The hon. member for Queen's said :

"Does the hon. gentleman say my hon. friend altered the date of the papers or the position in which they were? Was it his duty to arrange them?"

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). Not at all.

Mr. DAVIES. Anybody who takes up that book has to spend hours and hours to get an accurate or clear idea of the papers contained and their relation to each other.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). What I mean is this. When a Department brings down papers to the House, the papers go to the Journals
Mr. CHAPLEAU.

office, and after they pass into the hands of the Journal clerks, who detach them and count them, they go to the printers and appear in the form in which they went to the printers, and the Department cannot be held responsible for that, because the papers have, since they left the Department, passed through a number of hands.

Mr. BLAKE. As the hon. gentleman has referred to me as having some share in disarranging the papers, I beg to tell him he is not aware of the practice. The first thing done with the returns is to send them to the Clerk's office in order that they may be paged in red, just in the order in which the Government brings them down, and it is under these pages they are arranged and printed.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). That is not so."

I would not have referred to that matter, having made the statement I have mentioned, except that in the course of the debate last night the Minister of the Interior, in reference to an observation made by the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies) on the same subject, said: "After they had been handled by your leader;" and upon my repeating the same denial of the statement the hon. gentleman declined once again to accept that denial. Under those circumstances I have thought it proper, in vindication of myself, of my statement and of the Orders of the House and the practice of the House, to procure the papers, which are here before me. The papers are numbered in the Sessional Papers 116, 116a, 116e, 116f. They are consecutively printed in the order in which they are brought down. Paper 116 comprises 139 manuscript pages, which are numbered from 1 to 139 consecutively, and they comprise from page 1 to page 18 of print. Paper 116a comprises pages 1 to 11 manuscript, and 18 to 20 print; paper 116e comprises 1 to 38 MS, 1 to 67 print; paper 116f comprises 1 to 119 MS, and 68 to 113 print. I have not, of course, examined every page of these papers since the occasion arose. I was cognisant of the fact that they were numbered, from having looked at them; I have verified that statement, and have looked generally at the papers and compared them in a general sense with the print, and I find by my comparison that they are printed in the order in which they are here numbered. I repeat the statement that the first thing done with the papers, when they come to the House, before they go into the hands of members, is, that the Clerk sends them to an officer of his who is detailed to discharge the duty of affixing the numbers to these pages, with a view that there may be no mistake as to the order of the documents, and that they may be printed in that order. I repeat the statement that I did not disarrange these papers in any shape or way. What I did was this: I found, when they were brought down, that they were so inextricably arranged that it would be difficult in print, and was impossible in MS, to have any clear apprehension of their bearing and effect. I invited the Clerk of the House to be good enough to give directions that the papers should be copied, and they were copied by an officer of the House. Having found that they were in such a condition, if copied in this way—one paper appearing partly on the same page with another—that I could not use them, I asked that another copy might be made and that each of the copied papers might be kept a separate document. I received them in that shape, and I chronologically arranged those copies, having nothing to do then with the originals, and it was from that chronological arrangement that I was able to make the statement I did last Session. This has been done with the copies furnished and not with the originals, which were, however, as I have said in the first instance, and before I saw them, until numbered by the officer of the House, in the number and order in which they are printed in the Department. So far from the insinuation and statement of the Minister of the Interior, repeated, as I said last night and say again—repeated offensively, after my denial the other day—so far from that statement being true, I called the attention of the clerk of the Printing Committee to the fact that those papers would be unintelligible and