

option of the Company. If such a proposal, as I first expected, had been made to us, I would certainly have felt it to be my duty to give it my serious and thoughtful consideration, and it is quite possible that as a *dernier resort*, as the only escape from a worse state of things, I might have felt it to be my duty to approve of it. But as matters are, I found it impossible to approve of this bargain, and I cannot help expressing my wonder that hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House—business men, men of experience, men who really and truly, for I believe there are such in the party—have the interests of their country at heart, would allow party feeling or party prejudice, or a desire for a party advantage, to overcloud their better judgment and their patriotic feelings to such an extent as to force them, contrary, I believe, to the convictions of many of them, to vote for such a bargain. I cannot fail to express my surprise upon that point. It has well been said that this is not essentially a party question. It ought not to be a party question. It would be well for the country if all such questions as this were regarded irrespective of party. But I am afraid it will be treated as a party question—afraid, not for the interest of the party to which I belong, but afraid for the interest of the country. If the Opposition were called upon to-night to devise any means or scheme by which public odium could be heaped most lavishly upon the party in power, I cannot conceive any means more effectual than the forcing of a contract like this through Parliament by mere party influence and party force. It is not as a member of my party that I have any cause to regret the passing of these resolutions; it is simply as one who feels so free from all party bias that I would much prefer that the country were saved from such an infliction rather than that the party to which I belong should regain power sooner than it otherwise would. It is only for that reason that I sincerely regret the passage of a measure of this kind. I might have presented many other weighty considerations, at least in my mind, against the adoption of this measure, but I forbear on account of the lateness of the hour, and thank the House for the attention with which it has listened to me.

Mr. CHARLTON moved the adjournment of the Debate.

Motion agreed to.

Committee rose and reported.

House resumed.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER announced that he had received from the Returning Officer of the North Riding of the County of Oxford, a certificate that James Sutherland, Esquire, had been duly elected to represent that district in this House.

The hon. member was introduced by Mr. BLAKE and Mr. SKINNER.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved that in admitting James Sutherland, Esquire, to take his seat upon the certificate of the Returning Officer, this House still recommends a strict adherence to the principle of requiring the production of the usual certificate of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, of the return of the writ of election.

Motion agreed to; and (at 12:05 o'clock, a.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, 22nd December, 1880.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ELECTION RETURN.

Mr. SPEAKER presented the Return of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery of the election of Mr. Sutherland, for the Electoral District of North Oxford.

EXCHANGE BANK OF CANADA.

Mr. DESJARDINS introduced a Bill (No. 8) to reduce the capital stock of the Exchange Bank of Canada, and otherwise to amend the Act respecting the said bank.

Bill read the first time.

EMIGRATION PAMPHLETS.

Mr. MERNER enquired, Whether those pamphlets which were written in the interest of emigration to the North-West Territories have been translated and printed in the German language, and whether they have been sent to Germany, as was contemplated by the Government last year, and how many copies have been distributed for that purpose?

Mr. POPE (Compton). The pamphlets were translated into German, and 20,000 copies were sent to Germany for distribution.

ENGINEER'S REPORT ON THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Mr. BLAKE enquired, When will the Engineer's annual report on the Canadian Pacific Railway be laid before the House? Is it intended this Session to follow the course pursued last Session, and to provide for the use of members during the discussion of the Canadian Pacific Railway contract, advance sheets of the report?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I expect to be able to lay the report on the Table of the House, and have it distributed as soon as we meet after the holidays. I shall be happy to give the hon. gentleman advance sheets as soon as they are through the press.

RAILWAY TO LAKE ST. JOHN.

Mr. RINFRET enquired, Whether the Government has come to any, and what decision on the subject, which they had under consideration last Session, of aiding the construction of the railway to Lake St. John?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The Government has not yet come to any decision upon the question of aiding the construction of a railway to Lake St. John.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex), in moving for a return showing all appointments or dismissals made under the Weights and Measures Act, from the 1st day of July, 1879, to date, and the receipts and expenditures under the said Act, from the 1st day of July, 1880, to the 1st day of December, 1880, said: I am induced to make this motion by statements contained in the report of the Minister of Inland Revenue. We were promised, when the change was made in the Weights and Measures Act, in 1879, that there would be a great reduction in the expenditure under that Act. The report of the Minister of Inland Revenue covers, of course, the last fiscal year, and it does not contain anything to indicate that the promised reduction in expenditure is likely to follow. I am hoping, when I receive a reply to my motion giving the expenditure since last July, that we will have stronger indications of the fulfilment of the promises made a year or two ago than anything contained in the report for the last