

public office for the sake of any emolument that might arise from it. It is only justice I should say that to my hon. friend. But strange to say, the hon. gentleman has vindicated me already in the eyes of the people of Ontario, by the insinuation that Ontario has more than its fair share of members of the Cabinet. His first lieutenant, Mr. Mowat, his second lieutenant, Mr. Fraser, and his third lieutenant, Mr. Hardy, have been ringing through the country the charge that I was sold to the French, that I was under French domination; and at this moment I dare say his friends of the Ontario Administration, on as many stumps as they can cover with their feet, are warning the people of Ontario not to support Mr. Meredith or his friends, because he is sold to John A., and John A. is sold to the Frenchmen, and Ontario is sold to French domination. Mr. Speaker, I think I have made my explanation, and I think the country will admit that I have not sacrificed the Constitution, that I have not done any great injustice to Lower Canada by asking Mr. Macpherson to come and help me, and Mr. Smith to come and help him, both without salary. I do not think I have wounded the *amour-propre* of my friends of Lower Canada, and I state that, as I have always done, I will try to obtain as good a Government as I can. I admit, and everybody must admit, and when my hon. friend opposite, to the misfortune of this country, shall take my place, he will be obliged to admit, that we must follow the policy, not a cast-iron rule, of having every great interest represented in the Cabinet, whether the Maritime Provinces, the great West, or the Pacific coast, by-and-bye—indeed the Pacific coast was represented in the Cabinet in my person in the last Parliament. It is so in England. No Government could live unless the Irish and Scotch had a certain number of representatives in the Cabinet. There is no cast-iron rule there, but in order to obtain the support of the representatives of the people in all portions of the United Kingdom, each section must know it is in some degree, directly or indirectly, represented in the Cabinet. That is the principle I should like to see carried out; that is the principle that must be carried out, and that is the principle which my hon. friend will carry out by-and-bye, but I am in no hurry to see him carry his principles into practice.

Mr. BLAKE. I have been misunderstood in regard to a material part of my speech, that part which consisted of a quotation from the hon. gentleman's speech. The hon. gentleman has made it appear as if he had protested only against my own appointment to office without portfolio as an infringement of the Constitution. I was a supporter and follower and member of the Cabinet of Mr. Mackenzie, nothing more, Mr. Mackenzie being Prime Minister; but the point to which I desire to refer and regarding which the hon. gentleman has misconceived me, is, that after going on to protest against my appointment, he said, in the speech from which I quoted: "I protest against Mr. Scott holding that same position. I say that it is utterly unconstitutional." If it was unconstitutional in Mr. Scott's case it is so in other cases.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman was pulling the strings here in the Lower House, while Mr. Scott was leader and exponent of the principles of the Government in the Upper House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 4:10 o'clock p.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 15th February, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, from the Special Committee appointed to prepare and report Lists of Members to compose the Select Standing Committees, presented Lists of Members composing said Committees.

BILL INTRODUCED.

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 8) to provide for the Discharge of past Insolvents.—(Mr. Beatty.)

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INSOLVENTS' ESTATES.

Mr. BEATTY, in introducing Bill (No. 9) to provide for the equitable distribution of insolvents' estates, said: This Bill is of the same purport as that introduced last Session by myself, in relation to the distribution of the assets of insolvents, but does not include a discharge of the insolvent, as that is provided for in the other Bill just introduced. The object is that certain classes of persons, who have become unable to meet their obligations, should be put into insolvency, if desired by their creditors, on application to the Court; and the general purpose of the Bill is to provide for an equitable distribution of the assets of the estate relatively amongst the creditors who may have proved their claim, and it is not intended that the debtor, with a view to his discharge, should be included in the Bill. The usual clauses are put in providing for the distribution, the appointment of a guardian in the first instance, the appointment of trustees by the creditors for the liquidation of the estate, the prevention of fraudulent dealing and purposes of that character. But the general object and purpose of the Bill is simply to provide that persons shall not have a preferential assignment, or that by reason of obtaining execution first they shall not acquire the whole estate. All persons to whom the debtor may be indebted shall be entitled to come in, in cases of insolvency, and obtain such portions of the estate as they may show they are entitled to.

Bill read the first time.

FERRY BOATS AT THE TERMINUS OF NORTH SHORE RAILWAY.

Mr. LANDRY enquired, Whether the Government have come to any understanding with the present proprietors of that part of the "Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway," now more particularly known under the name of the "North Shore Railway," in relation to the construction of ferry boats to ply between the terminus of that railway and that of the Intercolonial Railway; and what that understanding is?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I beg to say, in reply to the hon. member, that no understanding has yet been arrived at upon this subject with the parties connected with the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway.

REPORTS.

The following Reports were laid upon the Table:—

Public Accounts of Canada for the fiscal year 1881-82; also, Report of the Auditor-General on Appropriation Accounts for the fiscal year 1881-82.—(Sir Leonard Tilley.)