

April 11, 1872

before the House proceeded to take into consideration the speech from the Throne.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** It is not.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE:** The speech from the Throne had promised that the desired-for correspondence should be presented for the consideration of the House. The Speech inferred that the House should discuss the treaty, and now the House was asked to discuss the treaty without having the papers before it.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** Discussions on Addresses from the throne were things of the past. In England such addresses were not now discussed. In the House of Commons in England it was customary to adopt the Address unless it was intended to move a vote of want of confidence.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON:** If the leader of the House desired to follow English precedent he should proceed with the discussion of the Address at once. Such was the practice in England. Such a course was desirable, considering the late period at which the House had been called together and it would save much expense to the country.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** asked what steps the Government intended to adopt with regard to a return which had been brought before the House, last session, in which it was shown that two members from a Manitoba constituency had been returned by the same number of votes, and the Government had promised to have a commission appointed to investigate the matter. The result had been that owing to the negligence of the Government, the constituency was not represented then.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** explained. The same course had been pursued as would have been followed under the rules adopted for regulating such matters in the former Province of Canada. The hon. member for Lambton had not stated matters fairly or the facts correctly. In Manitoba there was, at the period alluded to, no law in regard to contested elections, and there was no other course than to follow the enactment applying to the late Province of Canada. The matter had been referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and the House could not do anything in the matter before that Committee had reported, a report being rendered impossible by the absence of members of the Committee on the other side of the House.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE:** The hon. gentleman had no doubt stated a part of the circumstance correctly; but he must bear in mind that he was then acting as the leader of the House, and must accept the responsibility attaching to

that position. It was very improper that in so young a Province one seat should be now unrepresented.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** said that fault was entirely that of the other side of the House. The members of the Election Committee on that side had refused to act, and therefore caused the injustice complained of.

**Hon. Mr. BLAKE:** The memory of the Minister of Militia (Hon. Sir George-É. Cartier) seems to be failing him. He (Hon. Mr. Blake) during the last days of the previous session had suggested that steps should be taken to have the seats filled. It was the duty of Parliament to take such steps, and if there were no quorum of the Committee on Elections and Privileges, certainly the Opposition were not to blame for that. It had been referred to a Committee of the House simply to be burked, and Ministers being omnipotent had burked it accordingly.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** was reading from the Journals of the House in reference to the action taken in the case of the elections of Lisgar and Provencher, when he was called to order by

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** who observed that the discussion had no reference whatever to that subject.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** hoped that the hon. member for Lambton (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) would not try to confuse him. The question now stood in precisely the same condition as it did last session.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON:** The Minister of Militia has admitted that he wished the matter to be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, but he had failed to have it referred, and was therefore blameable.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** said that the returns had been made up in such a way as to be no returns at all.

The discussion here came to an end.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** that when the House adjourns tomorrow it stand adjourned until Tuesday next, in order to afford the members an opportunity of joining in the celebration of the public thanksgiving on account of the recovery of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

The motion was unanimously carried.

The House adjourned at 4.20 p.m.