

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved :

That a Special Committee of seven Members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of Members to compose the Select Standing Committees, ordered by the House on Thursday, the 31st ult., and that Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir John Thompson, and Messrs. Bowell, Laurier and Mills, do compose said Committee.

Motion agreed to.

INLAND REVENUE REPORT—CORRECTION.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I desire to call the attention of the House to an error which has occurred in one of the appendices to the report of the Inland Revenue Department, just published. I need not say that it is to be regretted that such an error should have occurred; but my attention having been called to the fact, instructions were immediately given to take measures to have it corrected, so that those to whom the reports were sent should be in possession of the correct figures. It has been insinuated that the commissioner was guilty of gross dereliction of duty in this matter, and it has also been insinuated that the error was purposely made in order to prejudice the case of the Scott Act, and that the statement of the great consumption per head of the population was in fact made against the Scott Act by those who were opposed to it. In reply, I need only call the attention of the House, after having admitted that a very serious blunder has been made, and one which is to be regretted, to the fact that the commissioner in his report himself states at page 19, paragraph 21 :

"It may be remarked that after reducing all spirituous and malt liquors and wines, domestic and foreign, to the basis of alcohol, the allowance per head of the population for the past decade does not exceed three-quarters of a gallon per annum, barely one-third of the quantity per head consumed throughout Europe."

The compilation of the appendix has for some years past been entrusted to Mr. Campeau, an old officer, and one of the most careful and industrious officers in the service. He is absent at present, or I would have procured from him a statement as to how the error occurred. I may state further that this paper was one of the last returned by the printers, and the schedule was not prepared before the last day for the report to be handed in. The House will no doubt be satisfied that this error must have accidentally crept into the table, it having been prepared by an officer of the standing of Mr. Campeau, whose work has always been found correct, and who has discharged his duty with great faithfulness. The House will no doubt also be satisfied that there was no intention to mislead, and I can assure hon. members that every means will be taken to place the correct figures into the hands of those who have received the report.

Mr. EDGAR. I did not catch the correction made by the Minister, if he made one.

Mr. COSTIGAN. The correction will be given. I have instructed the preparation of a corrected table, which will be ready in a day or two, to be supplied to members, to take the place of that which is incorrect.

Mr. EDGAR. The Minister does not know yet what the correct figures are?

Mr. COSTIGAN. I know the percentage arrived at here in this report. It is three quarters of a gallon per head.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 4 p.m.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 5th February, 1889.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN presented the report of the Special Committee appointed to prepare and report Lists of the Select Standing Committees for the present Session. He moved that the portion of the report relating to the Committee on Standing Orders be adopted, as follows:—

ON STANDING ORDERS.

Messieurs

Bain (Wentworth),	Gillmor,	Paterson (Brant).
Bergeron,	Gordon,	Patterson (Essex),
Brien,	Jones (Digby),	Pery,
Burdett,	Landerkin,	Porter,
Casgrain,	Langelier (Montmor'cy),	Rinfret,
Coughlin,	Lavergne,	Robertson,
Coulombe,	Macdowall,	Smith (Sir Donald),
Denison,	McKeen,	Stevenson,
De St Georges,	Marshall,	Sutherland,
Dessaint,	Meigs,	Thérien,
Dupont,	Mills (Annapolis),	Turoot,
Ferguson (Leeds & Gr.),	Moffat,	Wilmot,
Ferguson (Renfrew),	Montplaisir,	Wilson (Lennox), and
Ferguson (Welland),	O'Brien,	Wood (Brockville).—44.
Gigault,		

And that the Quorum of the said Committee do consist of Seven Members.

Motion agreed to.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved :

That a Select Committee composed of Sir Adolphe Caron, Messrs. Blake, Amyot, Chouinard, Colby, Davies, Davin, Desjardins, Kirkpatrick, O'Brien, Scriver, Thérien, Weldon (Albert), Weldon (St. John), and Wright, be appointed to assist the Speaker in the direction of the Library of Parliament, in so far as the interests of this House are concerned, and to act as members of a joint committee of both Houses of the Library, and that a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint their Honors therewith.

He said: This Committee is the same as last year, except that Mr. Edgar has been replaced by Mr. Blake, by consent of the Committee.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Report of the Postmaster General for the year ending 30th June, 1888.—(Mr. Haggart.)

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 8) to provide for the examination and licensing of all persons employed as stationary engineers, and all persons having charge of steam boilers and other devices under pressure.—(Mr. Cook.)

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. COOK moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 9) further to amend the Railway Act. He said: This is a similar Bill to the one I introduced last year. It has reference, in the first place, to the landing of passengers on the platform. It is the custom of the railway companies throughout this country to drop passengers wherever they see fit, and I think the travelling public should be protected against this. Another question dealt with by the Bill is the manner of handling baggage. It is well known that the baggage of passengers on railways has been smashed