

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, April 20, 1868

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

CONTESTED ELECTIONS

Mr. Blake moved that the Montreal East elections committee have leave to adjourn to the 2nd May. Carried.

Mr. Pozer presented the fiscal report of the St. Hyacinthe election committee. The committee reported that the sitting member, the Hon. E. R. Kierzkowski, had been duly elected for St. Hyacinthe; that the petition against him is frivolous and vexatious, and that the defence of the sitting member is not frivolous or vexatious.

Mr. Casault moved that the Yamaska Election committee have leave to adjourn to the 5th May. Carried.

Messrs. Mills, Kirkpatrick, Chauveau, Gaudet, and Macfarlane, Chairman, were sworn at the Clerk's Table as a committee to try the Berthier election.

C. B. AND K. C. B.

Hon. Mr. Holton, before the orders of the day were called, stated that the return to the address for correspondence with reference to the Titles of Honour was evidently incomplete. It contained no answer, not even a letter of acknowledgement, in response to the letters of Messrs. Galt and Cartier, which formed the concluding portion of the return. He could not conceive that letters written in so grave a state on so important a subject could have been allowed to pass without reply. He wished to know if the missing parts of the correspondence would be supplied.

Hon. Mr. Langevin said the question if repeated to-morrow, would then be answered.

RAILWAY INDEBTEDNESS TO GOVERNMENT

Mr. Morris asked if there had been any additional correspondence on the subject of railway indebtedness since the date of the return brought down a few days ago, and if

such additional correspondence would be laid before the House.

Hon. Mr. Rose said there had been two or three additional letters between Mr. Swinyard and the Government.

Mr. Street said so far as the Great Western was concerned they would like this additional correspondence to be laid before the House.

Hon. Mr. Rose promised that it should be brought down.

CONTINGENCIES AND ECONOMY

Hon. Mr. Langevin moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the third report of the Standing Committee on Contingencies, which recommends reduction in the number and salaries of officers of the House, so as to effect a saving estimated at \$30,000 per annum. He said the Committee had called before them the Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms to obtain information from them as to the position in which the expense of the House stood, and by what extent they could be safely reduced. Before entering, however, on the work of reduction they had been gratified to find that Speaker without impairing the efficiency of the service had been enabled to employ a less number of officers and messengers than were employed by the late Legislative Assembly of Canada, and to effect thereby a saving to the amount of \$7,400. They found that there were now 61 messengers. This class of employee they believed could be reduced to 40. There were 9 pages employed, a number which (he thought) was not too great. That 6 permanent clerks be discharged and the number of extra clerks be reduced by six. With regard to the department of routine and records the committee recommended that the analogous offices in the Senate should be combined with those of the House so as to form a joint department to be composed of one Chief Clerk, one Junior Clerk, one workman, and two Messengers; they recommended a combination of the department of votes and proceedings and that of the journals, so as to form one department with four officers. They recommended also arrangement with regard to the department of controverted elections, the post office, the