

assimilate them and make one law which would be applicable to the whole Dominion. Besides that, in the former Province of Canada, the Ordnance lands had been transferred by the Imperial Government and were under control of the Provincial authorities. These lands would also be fully under the control of the Secretary of State for Canada, and provisions were made in the Bill for carrying out that proposition. He (Mr. Langevin) had also tried to incorporate in the Bill provisions which would acquaint persons having business with the department with all laws having reference to the Ordnance and Indian lands and general business of the department. More special provisions were also inserted to prevent trespassing on Indian lands. Formerly while Indians were absent on their hunting journeys, persons often settled on their lands, and if they had undisputed possession six months, could not be removed. In order to reach them and protect the Indians it was proposed to extend this period of six months to one year, so that these parties could be ejected within that time. If it was in order he would ask whether there was now a Secretary of State for the Provinces, or whether it was intended to fill that office.

Sir John A. Macdonald said it was not intended to fill that office immediately. Mr. Archibald was still acting as Secretary of the Provinces, and his services were of the greatest advantage at this moment in consequence of the numerous applications now being made on the department. The establishment of this department was an experiment, and it was not yet decided whether there should be a new distribution as far as the duties of the Secretaryship of State were concerned.

Mr. Holton asked whether the whole duties of both offices were to be confined to the Department? Whether after the passage of the Bill there would be room for the Secretaryship of State for the Provinces in the machinery of the Government? The Minister of Justice was understood to say last night—at least they understood his statement to imply—that there was to be but one Secretary of State for the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Langevin said the intention was to make provision in this Bill by which certain of the duties assigned to the Secretary of State for the Provinces, might be transferred to the Department of the Secretary of State for Canada, if compatible with the public interests.

The Bill was read.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Hon. Mr. Howland laid on the table the Public Accounts of the Province of Canada, for the year ending June 30, 1866.

Mr. Holton asked when the Public Accounts for 1867 would be ready. Nearly five months since the fiscal year had ended, and yet the accounts were not ready, although the duties of the officers of the Finance Department must have been lessened in consequence of the change of system.

Hon. Mr. Howland said that on the contrary, those duties had, temporarily at least, been largely increased in consequence of that change—especially those of the Audit officers. He would inform the honourable member to-morrow when the accounts for 1867 would be ready.

INDEMNITY TO MEMBERS

Sir John A. Macdonald moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole on the resolutions respecting the indemnity to members and the salaries of the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament.

Sir John A. Macdonald explained the provisions of the law of the former Provinces of Canada, which he said had been found to work satisfactorily, and the principle of which had therefore been adopted by the Government in these resolutions. He proposed to fill up the blanks in the clause respecting the salaries of Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons with a sum equal that formerly paid Speakers of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Canada.

The motion was carried.

The House then went into Committee, Mr. Morris in the chair.

Mr. Mackenzie said he was in favour of an allowance per diem for indemnity to members till it reached a certain amount which it was not to exceed.

Mr. Blake said, that in such an event, it was obvious that members remaining in the House to attend the public business of the country would consider that they were doing so at their own charges, and consequently important measures would be hurried through at the close of the session, without receiving proper attention. The true remedy for this is to pay members a per diem allowance for the time they remain here. It was not a right principle to receive \$180 for thirty