

sum for the salary of such sixth Judge has been placed in the estimates for the fiscal year 1872-3?

3rd. Whether the Government intend to increase the salaries of the *Puisnés* Judges of the Superior Court for the Province of Quebec, seeing that those salaries are insufficient, considering the important duties those Judges have to fulfil, and the qualifications their high and responsible position requires them to possess?

In making the motion he called attention to the anomalous position in which the administration of Justice stood owing to the B. N. A. Act. Before a new Judge could be appointed the Local Government had to pass a law, and the Federal Government had to nominate him and fix his emoluments. He hoped that there would be as little delay as possible in promoting the administration of Justice in Quebec, and with the view of obtaining information on that point, he had made the motion in question.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL replied that it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill which would effect the object referred to in first enquiry. Provision would also be made for the payment of such an office, as soon as the necessary legislation was effected. He quite agreed that the salaries of the Judges were too low, and had no doubt that it would be necessary to revise them next session.

RAILWAY.

The Bill to amend the St. Francis & Megantic Railway Act was read a third time and passed.

QUARANTINE.

The House then went into Committee—Hon. Mr. FERRIER in the Chair—and passed the Quarantine Bill, with an amendment. It was read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC OFFICERS.

The House again went into Committee—Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST in the Chair—on the Bill in reference to the security given by officers of Canada, and passed it without amendment. The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

DOMINION NOTES.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the Act regulating the issue of Dominion Notes, and in doing so stated that under the law passed in the thirty-third year of Her Majesty's reign, the Government received the power to issue

Notes up to a certain amount, and when that amount was exceeded then they were only allowed to issue additional Notes by holding the same sum in specie for the redemption of such Notes in excess. This regulation had been found by the Government to operate unfairly upon the banks and the public, as there was a demand from day to day for smaller notes over and above the amount in circulation which it was very difficult to meet on the terms mentioned in the original Act. It was therefore proposed under the Bill to allow an issue of Notes, &c., above the \$9,000,000 on a security consisting partly of specie—at least 20 per cent. of the excess—and partly on deposits held by the Banks. The Government had come to the conclusion that such a measure was necessary for the convenience of the country at large. The security was ample inasmuch as the 20 per cent. was a sum in specie not exacted from the Banks, who were consequently more favored than the Dominion itself. He also argued that this sum really represented a good deal more. The Government were obliged to hold specie at four different places in the different provinces and to meet the fluctuating currency they would necessarily be obliged to keep more than 20 per cent. It had also been found that the circulation is fluctuating, and the Government through the Finance Minister, had been obliged from time to time to interfere and limit the circulation unnecessarily and inconveniently because the arbitrary rule had been laid down that they must hold dollar for dollar over and above the issue of nine millions of dollars.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON regretted that the Government had seen fit to introduce such a bill, as he could not help feeling that it was a step in the wrong direction. It was above all things important that the currency should rest on a very secure basis—immediate redemption in gold. Under the present Bill it was proposed to change the present Law, so that only 20 per cent. need be kept in reserve to redeem the excess of circulation over and above the \$900,000,000. It was true that the bill also provided that the balances held by the Government in the banks should be considered as a portion of the reserves. He hoped that the Government would not press such a provision. Those deposits were not equivalent to gold; for the banks are not obliged to redeem their notes in gold, but in Dominion paper. So the effect of the system was really paper upon paper. He did not think it judicious to weaken the reserves too much. It was quite possible that dollar for dollar was an