

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Tuesday, May 5, 1868

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

### PENITENTIARIES

On motion of **Sir J. A. Macdonald** the Bill respecting Penitentiaries and the Directors thereof was considered in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Kirkpatrick in the Chair.

It was then reported, and read a third time and passed.

### COMMITTEE ON SUPPLY

**Hon. Mr. Rose** moved that the House resolve itself again into Committee of Supply.

**Hon. Mr. Holton** moved in amendment, seconded by **Mr. Mackenzie**, that all the words after "That" in the original motion be omitted, and the following inserted instead thereof—"That the recent constitutional changes have rendered it necessary to complete the organization of all branches of the public service throughout the Dominion; that in this organization the strictest economy should be observed, that all unnecessary executive departments and all superfluous offices should be abolished; that all executive salaries should be diminished; that all unnecessary or indifferent officers be removed; that the salaries of all officers of the Dominion Government of similar grades in Previous Provinces should be equalized, and that payment of salaried officers for special services should be forbidden by law." He said it seemed now to be the fixed determination of the House that there should be economy in the administration of public affairs. He had the honour a few nights ago of presenting a resolution in this direction, and although it was not accepted by vote of the House, he had the great gratification last night of seeing one important part of it accepted by the House. Objection had been taken to his grouping several separate propositions in one motion. Objection had also been taken in the mode in which he proposed to deal with the subject. Endeavouring to profit by the discussion on that occasion, he had now framed a motion which he thought would meet the approbation of a large majority of the House.

Indeed he hoped his honourable friends opposite, in view of the discussions they had had, would at once acquiesce in it, and enable them to go into Committee of Supply with the declaration of principle which he now invited the House to make. A good deal had been said about motions in this form and in this connection being regarded as motions necessarily of want of confidence. He begged to declare that he did not bring forward this motion with that view, nor would he bring forward any motion having the effect of a vote of want of confidence. In England, every week, motions of this character and in this connection were put without ministers ever daring to insult the intelligence of the House by affirming that such motions were "ex-necessitate" motions of want of confidence. He would not delay the House by going over the points which in recent discussions had been debated so fully, and should therefore content himself with putting in the Speaker's hands the motion in amendment just read.

**Sir John A. Macdonald** thought the honourable member for Chateauguay ought to be satisfied with recent legislation respecting economy. The present motion of the honourable member was a mere rapid declaration in favour of economy and efficient administration, and he (Sir John) did not know why on the present occasion these matters of efficiency and economy should come up before the House. There was neither reason, fitness nor purpose in the motion, and it could have no result that he could see further than to delay the business of the House. It was not specially germane to the matter before the House, and was altogether such a motion, was brought on at such a time, and showed such an evident desire on the part of the honourable gentleman to convey by a side wind a direct censure on the administration, that the Government could not with respect to themselves or their position accept the motion in any way than as a vote of want of confidence. Where was the necessity for the motion? The Government themselves had invited attention to the whole subject.

**Mr. Mackenzie** said it would be recollected that at a previous period, when the threefold motion to which allusion had been made