

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 16, 1868

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

MR. J. J. ROSS IN CUSTODY

Mr. J. J. Ross appeared at the Bar in custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and made affidavit that his absence yesterday, when he should have been sworn as a member of the Joliette Election Committee, was owing to a detention of trains.

Mr. Walsh moved that the excuse be deemed sufficient, and that Mr. Ross be discharged from the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.—Carried.

JOLIETTE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Messrs. Tremblay, J. J. Ross, Stirton, J. S. Ross, and Scatcherd (Chairman) were then sworn at the Clerk's table as a Committee to try the Joliette Election.

MONTREAL EAST ELECTION

Mr. Walsh, from the General Committee on Elections, reported the following as the names of the Committee appointed to try Montreal East election—Messrs. Dunkin, Hagar, L. H. Masson, McConkey and Blake (Chairman).

TOO MANY DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Jones (Leeds) gave notice that when any of the Bills for the organization of any of the new departments was before the House, he would move a resolution to the effect that in the opinion of the House it is for the interests of this Dominion that the number of His Excellency's advisers who should be in the receipt of salaries, should not exceed nine.

HEMLOCK TIMBER

Mr. Pope moved to add Hon. Mr. Blanche to the Committee on the subject of protecting hemlock timber.—Carried.

FIXING A SALARY

Sir John A. Macdonald moved that to-morrow the House will resolve itself into Com-

mittee of the Whole to consider a resolution relating to the salaries of the officials mentioned in the Act respecting penitentiaries.—Carried.

CONTINGENCIES

Hon. Mr. Langevin moved that on Monday, immediately after routine proceedings, the House will resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider third report of the Committee on contingencies.—Carried.

CRIMINAL LAW

Sir John A. Macdonald introduced six additional Bills relating to the Criminal Law.

MILITIA BILL

Hon. Mr. Cartier intimated that he would move the second reading of the Militia Bill on Tuesday, and would then explain the views of the Government with reference to fortifications, and the amount of money they were to ask for that purpose.

THE ESTIMATES

The House was moved into Committee on the Estimates—Mr. Jackson in the Chair—commencing with the estimates for administration of justice.

On the item Circuit Allowances and Contingent Expenses, Ontario, \$13,000.

Mr. Blake said the doubt expressed by the Auditor-General in his letter of the 5th December last, as to the liability of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Dominion, for certain charges appeared to have been solved, so far as the Government could solve it in these estimates, by the determination that any payments authorized by Acts of the late Province, were payments not merely to be considered as liabilities of the Dominion of Canada, but payments authorized to be made from time to time as charges on the consolidated revenue, without any vote of Parliament at all. He apprehended, so far as his investigation of the meaning of the Union Act enabled him to judge, that this was an erroneous view. He thought the proper course