

all the members' seats might be contested, and if members attended to their summonses, as they were bound to do, there would not be a quorum, and the whole business of the House would be suspended in order that members might attend the court. There could be no doubt that the provision was a good one, and it should not be rescinded.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said every member of the House was there on the assumption that he represented the people, and if that right was questioned, it should be settled as soon as possible. The contingency pointed out by the Minister of Justice, that the seat of every member might be challenged, was an absurd one. Besides, it was not necessary even in that case that business should be suspended because a member would have only to attend the court in reference to a petition as he would with regard to a matter affecting his private business. In England, electoral trials went on without reference to whether Parliament was sitting or not. He acknowledged that his late respected friend, Mr. Hillyard Cameron, took a different view; but that view was not a wholesome one. He (Sir John A. Macdonald) had stated so before the House, but could not bring it up formally because his own seat was, at the time, affected, and he was, therefore, an interested party. He had felt then, and he felt now, that the object should be, whenever a petition was presented against a member, to take every means to prevent delay in the prosecution, and decide whether the man had a right to his seat or not, rather than allow him to sit and vote when he had no right to his seat.

MR. MILLS said the hon. gentleman had stated that the party should be proceeded against as rapidly as possible. That was quite true; but if the objection was worth anything, it would be against permitting a man to vote in the House while his seat was being contested. The case being in his favour, he should rather obey the mandate of the Crown than the mandate of the Court. The right hon. gentleman knew there was no objection taken to this measure when it was brought

up by the hon. member for South Bruce and concurred in by the late hon. member for Cardwell.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: It was brought up by Hon. Mr. Dorion.

MR. MILLS said the point to which the then hon. member for Cardwell, the late Mr. Hillyard Cameron, called the attention of the House, was that a suit might be entered against a member for a mere vexatious purpose, without any serious intention of proceeding with it. The suit might be delayed from time to time under various pretexts, and it was to prevent this abuse that the amendment was made in the Election Law.

MR. MACKENZIE said this discussion was out of order. The point had been started by an hon. gentleman on the one side, and replied to by one on the other, and should not be allowed to go further.

THE SPEAKER declared the discussion out of order.

Bill read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY—THE COAL INTERESTS.

RESOLUTION PROPOSED.

MR. CARTWRIGHT moved, that the Speaker do now leave the Chair, and the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

MR. MACKAY (Cape Breton), moved

“That all the words after “that” to the end of the said motion be left out, and the following be inserted instead thereof:—“in the opinion of this House, it is advisable to impose a duty of seventy-five cents per ton, upon all coals imported into the Dominion, so as to help to meet the financial deficiency, and, at the same time, give a stimulus to a most important industry.”

He said he wished to call the attention of the House to the coal mining industry of Nova Scotia. He had endeavoured to do this before, but an hon. member claimed and had granted him precedence by the Speaker, and on several occasions during previous sittings of the House, he had also brought the matter to the notice of the House, but nothing of much practical moment had resulted from it. During last Session a Committee had been appointed, of