

reflecting upon the conduct of the agent. I am happy to state, however, that I have the assurance of the Minister that the obstacle of which I have so long complained is likely to be removed in the near future, and on that assurance I rest content.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Carried.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman says "carried." I was thinking what a good thing it was to be a supporter of the Government. If a member of the Opposition had moved a motion of this kind, asking for papers and reports which reflected discredit upon one of the Departments of the Government, the Minister would not have said "carried," but would have cried out indignantly and said, it was a gross and improper act to ask the House to affirm unanimously that there were reports which reflected upon a Department. He would have said: It is impossible that the Department can err, it is impossible that the Department can have done anything discreditable or that it can be discredited; but my hon. friend can say these things and can have those motions carried, whereas, if we made any attempt of the kind, we should be met with a torrent of abuse.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is mutual confidence between my hon. friend and myself, and we had every confidence that the motion would be all right, even without reading it. Certainly, I did not.

Mr. BAKER. In this world there can none of us see ourselves as others see us, and I am pleased to know that the leader of the Government has confidence in one of the poorest and possibly the meanest of his loyal supporters. At the same time, I have had very good reason for calling for this correspondence, not as particularly reflecting upon the Department as a whole, but on a part of the Department in British Columbia, in which, of course, I have a right to take a decided interest.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 31st March, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ENQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister when he will bring down the savings banks returns.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. They are not ready.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I understood the hon. gentleman to say he would be able to bring down the returns for the Government savings banks.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. They are in course of preparation and will be brought down as soon as possible. I could not speak about the others.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is not necessary to get the whole at once; I will be very glad to get the half as soon as he can get it ready.

THE DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I may inform the House that there is no fresh news from the North-West, except two Mr. BAKER (Victoria).

satisfactory ones. One is that the movement on Battleford will, in all probability, have a peaceable and satisfactory solution; and we have the strongest assurance from Crowfoot, chief of the great Blackfoot tribe, that he and his tribe will be loyal under all circumstances.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 117) respecting the Commercial Bank of Nova Scotia.—(Sir Leonard Tilley.)

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, to consider the following resolution:—

That it is expedient further to amend the Acts respecting weights and measures by providing that a barrel shall no longer be a measure of capacity under section sixteen of "The Weights and Measures Act, 1879;" by defining further the weights which shall be deemed equivalent to a bushel; by making provision as to the size of barrels in which apples shall be packed and offered for sale, and by modifying the provisions of the said Act relating to goods packed in hermetically sealed cans.

Mr. BLAKE. Explain.

Mr. COSTIGAN. At present there is no standard size for a barrel of apples; and the provision that I propose is submitted at the request of persons interested in growing and exporting apples. There is also a change providing for the selling of coal by weight, a matter which has been urged upon the attention of the Department for some time past. It is also intended to amend a section or rather propose a substitute for a section, that was passed last year relating to canned goods, a section which from the information gathered from the business community, I think will be more acceptable and more easily worked. These are the main points dealt with in the Bill. Fuller and more detailed information will be given at a subsequent stage.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has mentioned something with respect to coal, which I do not find at all referred to in his resolution or indicated in the slightest degree. As to apple barrels: The hon. gentleman says a barrel of apples is a variable quantity, that there is no standard for the barrel just now; but may I ask whether it is intended that the new standard barrel shall be smaller or larger than the usual barrel at the present time? I also think we should have a little more detailed information even now as to what the nature of the provision is with respect to hermetically sealed cans. Is it the Act of last Session which the hon. gentleman is about to modify? We know that there have been considerable complaints as to the provisions with respect to stamping, and that the hon. gentleman, or some of his officers, indicated, some time during recess, that the Act would not be enforced; and he exercised a dispensing power with respect to laws on the same ground as the Minister of Marine had exercised it, that the people were ignorant of the results that would flow from the action of those laws. Besides making provision as to the weight of coal, which the hon. gentleman proposes to do, I would make a friendly suggestion as to another omission which should be supplied. I quite acknowledge that Ministers have acted upon the spirit in regard to the matter to which I am about to refer for some time past, but it would be well to obtain parliamentary sanction for it. The Bill provides "that a barrel shall no longer be a measure of capacity." I propose to add, that a position in the Cabinet no longer be regarded as a measure of capacity.

Mr. SCRIVER. I should like the hon. Minister to inform the House as to how the capacity of the proposed standard barrel of apples compares with that of a flour barrel. People generally, both for the home and export trade have, within my knowledge, packed apples in flour barrels, either