

ber, 1871, and reported it to be correct. The second report recommends that Antoine Alphonse Boucher, Esquire, the Senior of the French Translators be promoted to the office of Chief French Translator to the Senate, vacated by Robert LeMoine, Esquire, on occasion of his appointment as Clerk of the Senate. They recommend that Elizabeth Hewson be appointed and employed as a charwoman. The Committee also recommend that John Wingfield be appointed and employed as a Sessional Messenger, said appointment to date from the first day of this Session, since which day he has been doing duty as such, and on the reference made to the Committee on the twenty fourth day of April last, of the petition of C. W. Taylor, the Committee report that they cannot recommend that the prayer of the said petition be granted.

The reports were adopted.

The House then adjourned, after receiving several bills from the Commons.

TUESDAY, 4th June, 1872.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Hon. Mr. DICKSON brought in report of Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, and moved that the quorum be reduced to five. Also that the petitions of Boards of Trade of St. Catherine's, St. John, Lewis, &c., be referred back to the Committee for reconsideration.

These motions were adopted.

SECOND READINGS.

On motion of Hon. Mr. McLELAN a bill with respect to the Halifax Banking Company was read a second time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. BENSON a bill in reference to Dominion Water Works was read a second time.

COPYRIGHTS.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, in moving the second reading of the bill to amend the law with respect to copyrights, expressed his regret that two gentlemen—Hon. Mr. Ryan and Hon. Mr. Sanborn—who had always taken a deep interest in the question were not present. For some time past addresses had been passed in the House with the view of bringing about Imperial legislation on the subject of reprinting British copyrights in this country. Certainly very many persons had been of opinion that the Imperial legislation on this question was an encroachment upon the privileges given to these colonies to

enjoy representative institutions to the fullest extent. Several copyright laws had in the course of time passed the Imperial Parliament, and were ultimately made to run into all the colonies. These laws prevented the republication of British copyrights in this country; but subsequently an arrangement was made to allow the importation into this country of American reprints of British copyright works on the payment of a duty of 12½ per cent., to be distributed among the authors of such works. This system, however, had been proved to operate prejudicially to the interests of Canadian publishers; and an effort had been made for some time past to obtain from the Imperial Government the right to reprint the works in question in this country. When the question was last brought up the hon. member for the Wellington Division (Hon. Mr. Sanborn) suggested that we might legislate directly on the subject, for he believed we had the power by virtue of the B. N. A. Act and the fact of our enjoying representative Government. He (Mr. C.) in accordance with the promise he made on that occasion, had brought the subject to the notice of the Minister of Justice and his colleagues in the Government, and it was decided to act upon the suggestion of the hon. gentleman just mentioned. The argument defining the position of the Government was stated in the preamble of the Bill—that there was no reservation with respect to copyrights when representative institutions were granted to this country—and that express power was given to the Dominion by the Union Act to legislate upon the subject. Some might say that the power was only given to the Dominion in contra-distinction to the powers given to the Provinces; but nevertheless, he believed the language was broad enough to embrace the power given in the present Bill. It was now proposed to allow Canadian publishers to reprint British copyright works on receipt of a licence from the Government. These works are to be registered with the Minister of Agriculture, and thereupon no foreign reprints of such works are to be allowed to be imported. An excise duty of fifteen per cent on the wholesale price of such works is to be collected and distributed for the advantage of the authors.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER said the Dominion ought not to be placed in reference to such works in a worse position than it is now. A duty of 12½ per cent. was at present collected on the wholesale price of American reprints, but now there was to be an excise duty imposed to the extent of 3 per cent. more.