

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 9th March, 1880.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRIVATE BILLS PETITIONS.

TIME EXTENDED.

Resolved, That the time for receiving Petitions for Private Bills be extended four days from to-day.—(*Mr. Robinson.*)

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were severally introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 63) To extend the powers of the Manitoba South-Western Colonisation Railway Company, and to further amend the Act incorporating the said Company.—(*Mr. Schultz.*)

Bill (No. 64) To authorise and provide for the winding up of the Consolidated Bank of Canada.—(*Mr. Gault.*)

Bill (No. 65) To amend the Acts respecting the Montreal Telegraph Company —(*Mr. Gault.*)

Bill (No. 66) To incorporate the Quebec and Ontario Railway Company.—(*Mr. Cameron, North Victoria.*)

SUPPLY.

II. CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY: Mr. Speaker, before submitting my financial statement, I desire to move the House into Committee, in order to take a vote on Supply, and I ask my hon. friend opposite to consent to concurrence to-day, because it would be much more desirable to make the statement on the proposition to go into Committee of Ways and Means. They quite understand that, therefore I move that the House go into Committee of Supply.

MR. MACKENZIE: I do not propose to object to the proceeding, but it would have been better to have observed the regular rule and taken a vote before now.

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY: I quite admit that, but the circumstances were peculiar. I desired to follow that course, but owing to the serious illness of the Deputy of the Department, and other matters, I delayed it, and I therefore rather throw myself on my hon. friends opposite on the present occasion.

House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

2. The Governor-General's Secretary's Office..... \$11,000.

Resolution ordered to be reported.

House resumed.

(In the House.)

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY: Mr. Speaker, in moving the House into Committee of Ways and Means, I desire to make my financial statement. When I had the honour of addressing this House on the motion to go into Committee of Ways and Means, last Session, I took the liberty of calling attention to the different position I occupied on that occasion to the position I occupied as Finance Minister in 1873. I briefly referred to the fact that in the period referred to (1873) the country was prosperous, and the Treasury overflowing. Last year, when I made my statement, I had to admit that the Treasury was not overflowing, and the country was not so prosperous as we could desire. The Government realised at that time the difficulties they experienced in meeting the House under such circumstances. These difficulties were, however, diminished from the fact that the right hon. gentleman who now leads the Government had, when leader of the Opposition, submitted resolutions to the House of Commons affirming a certain policy which was at that time rejected by Parliament, but subsequently affirmed by an overwhelming majority of the people of the Dominion. In dealing, therefore, with the most important subject which could receive consideration—and difficult as it was, we felt we had behind us and in the country a sentiment in favour of the policy that we were about to submit—the difficulty was to prepare that policy, and arrange its details in such a manner as to make it not only acceptable to our supporters in Parliament, but to make it universally acceptable if possible to the Dominion. We experienced less difficulty than we would have under other circumstances, because all those points had been previously considered and discussed throughout the length and breadth of the country. But, as I have just stated, the difficulty was to harmonise the views and sentiments, not only of our supporters in the House, but of our friends out of the House, so that the proposals in their operation should not