

will not come to the conclusion that a great injustice has been done to the claimants. They have been deprived of their legitimate property for the last thirty-seven years. If this House should arrive at the conclusion to which the members of the Committee have unanimously come, there can be no good reason given for not settling this matter. I think it is the duty of this House to recommend that justice be done, and that the claimants should have redress. If the House has not had time to examine the documents which are published with the report, then I would suggest that the matter be postponed until to-morrow, in order that every member may have an opportunity to examine them carefully; and I am satisfied that they will come to the conclusion that the case is perfectly clear, and that the claim should be settled. It has been said that this was an *ex parte* case — that the Government of New Brunswick was not represented. The Committee, before acting, requested the Government of New Brunswick to appear and show their reasons, if they had any, for not accepting those conclusions. The answer of the New Brunswick Government was to this effect: "We do not accept the jurisdiction of your Committee to act in this matter because it has been settled by arbitration, and the arbitrators have come to another conclusion." That is, the amount which the majority of the arbitrators recommended is not so large as the Committee find to be due. It is impossible to examine the documents without coming to the conclusion that this pretended arbitration on which the Province of New Brunswick relies in refusing to settle this claim was no arbitration at all, because in the first place the men who were appointed were not arbitrators, but Commissioners, appointed by an Order in Council to settle some accounts. That Order in Council said in precise terms that the Commissioners should not be allowed to reopen matters settled by two reports — the reports of Cutler and Dawson, and of Harding and Dawson. Notwithstanding that, we have clear verbal evidence that these pretended arbitrators arrived at their conclusion by taking it upon themselves, contrary to the terms of the Order in Council appointing them, to reopen the

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accounts, and set aside some accounts which were perfectly good, and accompanied with vouchers. It is clearly proved that only by doing so did they arrive at the conclusion to reduce the account. I cannot see how this House can refuse to adopt the report of the Committee. After 37 years of delay, I think it is due to the claimants that they should have a claim, which is based upon such clear and unmistakeable evidence, settled without further delay.

The report was adopted.

#### MILITIA AND DEFENCE LAWS AMENDMENT BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of Bill (99) "An Act further to amend the Acts therein mentioned respecting the Militia and Defence of the Dominion of Canada." He said that the object of the Bill was to postpone the enrollment which the Militia Act requires until after the taking of the census.

The Bill was read the second time.

#### VAGRANTS' PUNISHMENT BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of Bill (90) "An Act to remove doubts as to the power to imprison with hard labor under the Acts respecting vagrants."

The Bill was read the second time.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND JUDGES' SALARIES BILL.

##### SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of Bill (95) "An Act to increase the salaries of Judges of the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island." He said: This Bill is to carry out an understanding which my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island has been urging upon this House and me for a session or two. I am glad now to present the Bill for its second reading, and my hon. friend will see that at last we have carried out the promise we made to Prince Edward Island.

Hon. Mr. MILLER — I do not think the Bill goes far enough. I see no reason why the judges of the Province of