

the Independence of Parliament.” He explained that the object of the Bill was to place the law on the Independence of Parliament in the same position as it had been under the old Act of the Parliament of Canada, rendering it incompetent for the Government to employ any member of the House in any service whatever.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** accepted the Bill very cordially as a step in the right direction, but did not think it went far enough. It was illusory to suppose that it reverted to the system under the old Province of Ontario, as there was nothing to prevent officers such as Registrars and Sheriffs from sitting in the House.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** pointed out that under the old law those officers had been appointed by the Province, but as the Dominion Government had no power over those officers there was no reason why they should be excluded from the House.

**Mr. WELLS** said that under the Insolvent Act, Sheriffs were charged with many duties from the Dominion Government, and there was no doubt that if they did not discharge those duties properly, the Government would find means to punish them, and maintain that there were precisely the same reasons for excluding a Sheriff from the Dominion Parliament as there were to exclude him from the Local Legislature.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** was surprised the hon. member did not see the difference. Sheriffs were not appointed or paid by the Dominion Government, nor had the Government any power to dismiss them.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said that there were good reasons for excluding Sheriffs and other such officers, from Parliament, which he should urge at the proper time. All servants subject to the influence of the Crown ought to be excluded.

Motion passed, and Bill to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

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#### MILITIA AND DEFENCE

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** moved the second reading of Bill No. 43: “An Act to amend the Act regulating the Militia and Defence of the Dominion.” He explained that its object was to extend the Militia Act to the Province of Manitoba and to British Columbia when admitted into the Dominion. He referred to a previous remark he made on the subject to the effect that the Militia Law of Canada could not be improved, and read a letter which he had recently received from Mr. Reade, the Registrar of Her Majesty’s Judicial Committee, who was well known as an eminent legal man, an eminent Parliamentary man, and a great literary character, and who, on Sir George Cornwall Lewis taking a position in Lord Palmerston’s Government, succeeded that gentleman in the temporary management of the *Edinburgh Review*, and who, on the

death of Sir George, assumed the management of that publication permanently, in which Mr. Reade stated that he considered the Canadian Militia Law most admirable, and would be well satisfied to see it applied to England.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said he supposed the gentleman referred to admired the Militia Bill because it did in Canada what no one had ever proposed in England: it established the system of conscription. There might be many in England, who, like Mr. Reade, would be glad to see that system in force there, but there had never yet been a single eminent man, who had dared to propose such a measure to the Imperial Parliament.

**Mr. BLANCHET** drew attention to the report of the Adjutant General, shewing defects in the system, instancing that a District Adjutant General, ranking as Lieut. Colonel, might be placed in command of officers really his senior.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** said there were many recommendations in the report of the Adjutant General which were well worthy of consideration, and which would no doubt be acted upon as soon as practicable. He promised that the Government would consider the matter.

The motion passed, the Bill to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

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#### NORTH WEST

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** moved the second reading of Bill No. 44, “An Act to make further provision for the Government of the North West Territories” (from Senate). He explained that the Bill was simply a re-enactment of what had been passed in the first instance as a temporary measure, it being considered a more advisable mode than continuing the former Act.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said he saw no particular objection to the Bill.

Motion carried, and Bill to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

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#### HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On motion of **Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS**, the House went into Committee of Supply, **Mr. HARRISON** in the chair.

In the items for Penitentiaries,

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** called attention to the increase this year as compared with last in regard to Kingston. Then it required but