

MR. MITCHELL said the discussion which this item had elicited, showed the futility of bringing up a matter of this kind at such a late hour. He should ask, on Concurrence, to have the item reduced by \$100,000.

Vote agreed to.

Resolution ordered to be reported.

House resumed.

Resolution reported.

House adjourned at  
Twenty minutes before  
Three o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 26th April, 1878.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### PRAYERS.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE— PETER SUTHERLAND.

##### REPORT PRESENTED.

MR. YOUNG presented the second report of the Public Accounts Committee, and said the object was to bring before the House the case of Peter Sutherland, of Winnipeg, who had neglected to pay attention to the summons of the Committee, to appear and give evidence in the matter of the Nixon accounts. This was the first case of the kind which had occurred since Confederation, and he would read a few extracts from May on the subject.

MR. LANGEVIN said it would be better to read the extracts and discuss the case after the report had been printed in the Votes and Proceedings. This should be done in justice to Mr. Sutherland.

MR. SPEAKER said it was unusual to discuss a report except on a motion to adopt it.

MR. YOUNG said he did not wish to discuss the matter; he simply wished to give a statement of the case.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said the hon. gentleman had better proceed regularly.

MR. HOLTON said there could be no doubt that Sutherland had been guilty of a flagrant contempt of this House, but at this period of the Session it was impossible to vindicate the privileges of Parliament before prorogation. The question now was whether Parliament should vindicate its privileges or avert future events. The only object of the Chairman of the Public Accounts was to lay the case before the House, and he saw no objection to that.

MR. SPEAKER said it was not the practice to supplement the report of a Committee by a statement from the chairman, and he must say that he regarded it as an objectionable mode of proceeding, especially as objection had been made to it.

MR. YOUNG said he bowed to the ruling of the Speaker.

#### PRINTING COMMITTEE—DISTRIBUTION OFFICE.

##### MOTION TO ADOPT REPORTS.

MR. ROSS (West Middlesex) moved the adoption of the fourth and fifth Reports of the Printing Committee. He stated that one of these Reports referred to a matter in connection with the Distribution office. The Committee had found that the work could not be attended to by the present staff during the recess, and Mr. Botterell had requested that one of the Sessional messengers should be transformed into a permanent messenger. The Committee had recommended that this request should be complied with, and that an additional allowance of \$300 should be allowed for this messenger.

MR. MACKENZIE said that this might be all perfectly right, but it was an interference with the law which governed the House. This matter ought to be left with the Speaker and the Commissioners of Internal Economy. If the Committees of the House undertook to make these changes practically in the salaries of officials, it would be very awkward.

MR. ROSS said that the Printing Committee was not a Committee having the ordinary privileges of a Committee of the House. It was an