

HON. MR. SCOTT moved, seconded by HON. MR. HAMILTON, that the Hon. Mr. Hamilton be relieved from further attendance on the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on the Printing of Parliament, and that the Hon. Mr. Fabre be appointed in his stead.

Upon this Motion being carried, it was ordered that the foregoing Resolution be communicated to the House of Commons by one of the Masters in Chancery.

BILL TO AMEND INTERPRETATION ACT.

HON. MR. SCOTT presented a bill intituled "An Act to amend the Interpretation Act, as respects the Printing and Distribution of the Statutes, and the Territorial application of Acts amending previous Acts."

This bill was, upon motion, read a first time; to be read a second time on Friday next.

The House then adjourned.

Thursday, February 18, 1875.

DOMINION STATISTICS.

After routine,

HON. MR. BROWN moved that a Select Committee be appointed to enquire and report as to the best mode of improving the system of obtaining and publishing statistical information throughout the Dominion; that the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, and that it shall consist of Hon. Messrs. Letellier, Campbell, Carral, Fabre, Girard, McMaster, Miller, Montgomery, Odell, Penny, Ryan, Simpson, Trudel and the mover. The hon. gentleman said that the importance of obtaining reliable statistical returns in regard to the industrial, financial, commercial, agricultural, manufacturing and sanitary progress of the Dominion could hardly be overrated; and without casting any reproach on any Government, past or present, it was impossible to deny that there was room for a very great improvement in this department of the public service. It could in no way be regarded as satisfactory that the enumeration of the people taken in 1871 was not yet fully published. (Hear, hear.) The value of

the census was comparatively of little moment when four years were consumed in compiling and printing the returns; indeed it was difficult to obtain public attention to facts and figures so far back, and that had already been so much affected by the progress of the country. The trade and navigation returns of the Dominion, which were so valuable to all men of business, were not, he thought, got up in that condensed and clear style that would enable them to be easily mastered by the parties for whose benefit they were got up. The mortality returns were admittedly of very little value—though the highest interests of the Dominion demanded that they should be accurately and fully obtained. And as to the industrial and commercial returns of the several Provinces, it was not to be denied that reform was urgently demanded throughout the whole of them. It was true that great difficulty had been found in getting the several Provinces to unite on a uniform system, that would make the whole returns, when compiled, of interest and value; but some way could certainly be found of overcoming this obstacle. On the whole he thought that it might prove very advantageous to have the entire subject of our national statistics thoroughly investigated by a Committee, with the view of making suggestions towards the establishment of a more reliable and useful system than that we now possessed.

HON. MR. LETELLIER had no objection to the appointment of a Committee or to the names of the hon. gentlemen who were to comprise it. It was one of those questions which must come under the consideration of the House. With reference to the census, which had met with some objections at the hands of the hon. gentleman, he would say that it would have been very hard work indeed for those who had it in charge to have improved upon it; but he believed that when the report was made it would be a step in the right direction, and a large improvement on the census that had been taken before Confederation. Some defects might be found, but those defects, after careful consideration and study by those who