

Hon. Mr. McGee—I object. It is better for the peace of the country that I should do so.

The matter dropped.

CUSTOM HOUSE OFFICERS

Mr. Lawson moved to rescind the resolution of the 17th of March adopting the report of the Printing Committee to the effect that a certain return respecting officers of Customs should not be printed.

Mr. Young said the statistics called for were already printed in the public accounts, and the recommendation of the Committee not to repeat them was a good one.

Mr. Mackenzie said the Printing Committee were unanimously of opinion that there was no necessity for printing the document referred to, and if the House did not support the Committee in preventing the printing of papers which they deemed entirely useless, there would be no necessity for the Committee at all.

Mr. Lawson desired the printing of the document, as it gave in a concise shape information on a point of much public interest. Complaints had been made of the number of Custom House officers, and of their being overpaid. He did not think they were overpaid, but wished the information for his constituents. They found that there were some 20 ports which cost the Government \$15,000 more than they collected.

Sir John A. Macdonald said the Committee on printing had an onerous and responsible duty, and ought to be sustained by the House. Perhaps the honourable gentleman who moved the motion might be heard again by the Committee.

Mr. Mackenzie said there was full notice given by the Committee of their meetings, and the members had no wish to stand in the way of the printing of any document which ought to be printed.

Mr. Lawson believed the matter was a foregone conclusion with the Committee.

Mr. Mackenzie—Order! The honourable gentleman should not impute motives.

Mr. Speaker ruled the member for South Norfolk out of order.

Mr. Lawson withdrew the motion.

DOMINION STOCK

Mr. Gibbs moved for returns showing the amount of public bonds and stock issued by the Dominion of Canada since 1st July last, and the terms at which issued, without, however, the names of the parties to whom the stock was allotted.

Mr. Gibbs said he made this motion in the interest of the public, to get that information which the honourable member for Chateauguay failed to obtain, except such as related to the name of the holders of the stock and the correspondence between the Government and the Bank of Montreal.

Hon. Mr. Rose said the Government were desirous of giving the fullest information on the subject which they could, and the return asked for would be brought down to the House as soon as possible.

Hon. Mr. Holton did not wonder that the member from South Ontario should have put the motion, and that the Finance Minister should have acceded to it. The position of his friend, the member for South Ontario, had been slightly embarrassing. It was easily seen when the honourable member had to vote down his (Mr. Holton's) motion the other day for information on this subject, a subject on which that honourable member (Mr. Gibbs) and the part of the country from which he came, desired information. Now, it was the object of that honourable member to cover over that vote as far as he could by making one on the same subject, which would be acceptable to the Government. This little arrangement would be well understood in the country. Under this motion, the information which the House and country desired would not be forthcoming. What that honourable gentleman's constituents desired to know, was what are the terms and conditions on which the Government had dealt with that gigantic monied corporation, which had its claws on the vitals of this country. (Hear, hear.) But the honourable member who moved this motion was quite willing to let the Government off without giving this information. He (Mr. Holton) had some idea of moving an amendment to this motion, which would really call for the information the Finance Minister would be pleased to afford his supporter, the member for South Ontario. When that information was got, the House would be in a position to extort from an unwilling Finance Minister that information they were entitled to, which the country would sooner or later insist on.