

he has referred I have seen. Our officers have been very active in all matters connected with the sealing fisheries, and I need hardly say that the Government will take proper steps in the matter, and will do whatever is possible to be done in the interests of the Canadians who were seized.

### THE OTTAWA STRIKE.

Mr. LAURIER. It was stated in the press of last evening and this morning that the militia had been called out in connection with the strike going on in a part of this city. Can the Minister of Militia give information to the House in this matter?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I can tell the hon. gentleman that what was announced in the press last night is correct, and this morning the militia force was called out under the statute. The Government have no possible responsibility in the matter. The militia were called out under the statute, by which it is provided that by the advice of three magistrates the force can be at any time called out to aid the civil power. Hull is practically quiet so far, and there is no trouble as far as I have been able to ascertain.

Mr. EDGAR. What force was considered necessary to send out?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Four companies have been called out, and, as I already explained to the hon. gentleman, the discretion of the Government was not brought into play at all. It was at the request of three magistrates that the force was called out.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) In what position do the force and the rioters or persons whom they were called out to quell stand? Has the trouble been allayed, or has the hon. gentleman any official knowledge of the condition in which these matters are?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. All I can tell the hon. gentleman is simply what I have been able to ascertain just as he might himself. It is outside my jurisdiction as Minister of Militia, but as I took an interest in what was going on I merely ascertained that everything was quiet. The hon. gentleman on referring to the statute will see that the Minister of Militia has absolutely no responsibility, but that the responsibility rests with those magistrates who called out the force.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Are these magistrates from the City of Ottawa or from Hull, or from both cities?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. They are from Hull.

### THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Mr. LAURIER. The Minister of Finance promised the Supplementary Estimates for yesterday.

Mr. FOSTER. If possible.

Mr. LAURIER. Will it be possible to-day?

Mr. FOSTER. I hope so. I have a very strong hope this time.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I have had occasion in former days to have these Estimates printed in the ordinary way, and I must say that I have never had any trouble in getting them put through in three or four hours. It does appear to

Mr. TUPPER.

me that the Printing Bureau is falling very far short of the expectations, or that my hon. friend's estimates are preternaturally long, which, I presume, is not the case. If the printers are the cause of the delay, they ought really to be stirred up, and the proceedings of the House ought not to be delayed. I am quite certain that in any average printing office a few hundred copies of such a work as the Estimates, could easily be done in a very few hours.

Mr. FOSTER. I must exonerate the Printing Bureau. The last and final item was sent down to the printing office only about fifteen minutes ago, and all despatch will be used to have them here by six o'clock.

Mr. LAURIER. Is that positively the last item?

Mr. FOSTER. Possibly that is the last, and whether they are preternaturally long or not will be seen when they are on the Table.

Mr. McMULLEN. What was that important item?

Mr. FOSTER. It was not Cobourg Harbour.

### THE DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved third reading of Bill (No. 146) to further amend the Dominion Elections Act.

Mr. BARRON. Before this Bill be read the third time I would ask the House to adopt an amendment which I propose to make, and for which purpose I would ask the Bill to be referred back to Committee. If the Committee last night had adopted proposals made by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to the effect that the returning officers ought to give security in order to ensure the appointment of really good men standing high in the community, then, perhaps, there might have been no necessity for my proposal. We have seen in the past such extraordinary conduct on the part of returning officers, that I feel the time has arrived when something must be done to secure more efficiency on their part. We know the history of hon. gentlemen opposite, so far as legislation is concerned, has been to take into their hands the appointment of returning officers on the eve of general elections. We know that when the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie) came into power, in pursuance of the promise he had previously made, he inaugurated an entirely different system so far as returning officers are concerned. He required that the returning officers should be men of position, and he provided by law that the returning officers should be sheriffs and registrars, men standing high in the community, officials who would have some regard for themselves, and for the acts of the deputies for which they were responsible. We find during the regime of Mr. Mackenzie that no trouble ever occurred, and it was never for one moment suggested that any improper act took place so far as returning officers were concerned; but, immediately after the Mackenzie Government were defeated, the Government of hon. gentlemen opposite repealed that law, and took upon themselves to appoint returning officers, and I say, partizan returning officers. Now, if they desired to avoid the excuse they set up for that course, they might have appointed County Court judges to this office, who are officials