

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

MONDAY, 25th April, 1887.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRIVILEGE—QUEEN'S, N.B., ELECTION.

Mr. SKINNER. On motion of the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Weldon) it was ordered, on the 15th inst, that the returning officer for the county of Queen's, N.B., be ordered to transmit forthwith to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery the poll books and other papers connected with the late election in that district. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery has now the papers, and only awaits the order of the House to produce them. I would, therefore, move:

That the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery be ordered to attend at the Table forthwith, with the poll books, certificate of returns, ballots and all other papers used and connected with the late election for the electoral district of Queen's, New Brunswick, and returned to him by John R. Dunn, the returning officer for said district at said election, pursuant to the Order of this House made on the 15th instant.

Motion agreed to, and the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery ordered to attend with the papers.

PROCEDURE IN CRIMINAL CASES.

Mr. THOMPSON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 19) respecting procedure in criminal cases. He said: The Bill is intended to regulate the law respecting appeals in criminal cases. The principal feature is that no appeal will be had to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council from the courts of last resort in Canada.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

PUBLIC STORES.

Mr. THOMPSON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 20) respecting public stores. He said: The object is to enable stores which belong to the different Departments to be marked in such a way that they can be identified; also to establish the principle that the marks to be put on Government stores are *prima facie* evidence that they are the property of the Government, and to provide penalties for counterfeiting or obliterating the marks or improperly marking goods. The same provision exists with regard to naval and military stores.

Mr. BLAKE. If this Bill is introduced in consequence of defalcations we should have some account of their character and extent.

Mr. THOMPSON. It is not introduced so much with regard to that, as in connection with missing articles belonging to the public departments, more especially the Department of Railways. It is extremely difficult to prove such articles which are scattered over the country.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

PUBLIC MORALS.

Mr. CHARLTON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 21) respecting offences against public morals and public convenience. He said: The object of the Bill is to add to the provisions of chapter 52, 49 Victoria. It consists of adding to the clause of dealing with idiots and imbecile women, the words "insane women." A Bill of that character has recently passed the Ontario Legislature. It is one of an excellent character, and I hope the House will see fit to adopt it. It also provides for restoring the provisions of the previous Bill, as it left this House, in regard to seduc-

Mr. DAVIN.

tion under promise of marriage, making the age of the woman who may have recourse to law in this respect, twenty-one, while the male is liable at the age of eighteen. This was changed in the Senate so as to make the age of the man twenty-one, while no woman could have recourse after the age of eighteen. This is the provision of the Bill, with the addition of the insane woman to those protected by the law.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

QUEEN'S, N.B., ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have now the honor to inform the House that, in obedience to the order of the House of this day, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is in attendance with the poll-books, certificates, &c., connected with the late election for the electoral district of the county of Queen's, N.B.

Mr. SKINNER moved that the papers produced by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery concerning the late election and poll held in and for the electoral district of the county of Queen's, N.B., be now read, saving the poll-books and ballots.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BLAKE. We desire everything except the poll-books and the ballots. The other things, I presume, will be the returns from the deputy returning officers to the returning officer. It is not necessary actually to read them. We only want to get them on the Votes.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Take them as read?

Mr. BLAKE. Yes.

THE ESTIMATES.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to enquire of the Minister of Finance whether he is in a position to give the House any information as to when he will bring down the Estimates and deliver his Budget Speech.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not able to give the hon. gentleman that information at present.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I suppose we may assume that the hon. gentleman cannot do it this week.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Certainly not.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I would suggest that we should dispose of the Private Bills, so as to allow them to go to the several committees. I observe that they are all printed in both languages.

Mr. BLAKE. I noticed that these were marked as printed, but, as I have none of them on my file, I have just sent for them with a view to agree to some arrangement of this kind, but I have not seen them in print.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have not seen any of them.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would suggest that we should go through the unopposed orders on the paper.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Unopposed questions?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not mean the questions, because, of course, you can answer them if you like. I mean the unopposed notices. The hon. gentleman will see that Monday is the only possible day for getting through those notices for a week, because on other private days we stop at six o'clock.