

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Saturday, December 14, 1867

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

ESSEX ELECTION

On the question of receiving a petition from electors in Essex, complaining of a series of violent and irregular proceedings on the part of Arthur R. Rankin and others, during the election in Essex.

Hon. Mr. Holton called the attention of the Government to the question of whether this petition could be received. It was, in fact, a petition against the petitioners in the Essex case, and had reference to an issue that was now pending, and would very soon go before an Election Committee.

Sir John A. Macdonald said it might stand till Monday, and he would during the interval look into the matter.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Hon. Mr. Rose introduced a Bill to constitute the Department of Inland Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Tilley introduced a Bill to constitute the Department of Customs.

Hon. Mr. Tilley moved concurrence in the 7th resolution on the Tariff, reported from the Committee on Ways and Means. Carried.

The remaining Tariff resolutions were also agreed to, except the 11th, imposing export duties, so far as regards the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, on various descriptions of timber. **Sir John A. Macdonald** said the Government had decided to strike this out, and it was struck out accordingly.

Hon. Mr. Tilley then introduced a Customs Bill founded on the resolutions.

Hon. Mr. Holton said the Government was supplying the House with an amount of literature which it would scarcely be possible even to read between now and Christmas. If it was intended to go on with these measures in this part of the session, Government should make a clear explanation of their whole policy with regard to organizing these departments.

99038—194

Sir John A. Macdonald said he would take an early opportunity of doing so.

REPORTING THE DEBATES

Sir John A. Macdonald requested the Chairman of the Printing Committee not to move the adoption of the official reporting scheme till Monday, when the matter could be finally disposed of. Agreed to.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY

Sir John A. Macdonald moved the adoption of the address with reference to the North-West, and said that the member for Chateauguay had intimated it would be allowed to pass *subsilento*.

Hon. Mr. Holton said he could only speak for himself and his Lower Canada friends. As far as they were concerned, they were not disposed to renew the discussion; he had only asked delay to see that the Address was in the terms of the resolution, and if so he was now satisfied.

Mr. Mackenzie and the member for Bothwell objected to the Address, because it did not set forth the form of Government intended to be established in the Territory, and he understood, was prepared to speak briefly on the subject.

Sir John A. Macdonald said he would allow the motion to stand.

AMERICAN SILVER

Hon. Mr. Rose, in resuming the debate of the morning, referred to the great inconvenience arising from the quantity of American silver with which the market was flooded, and stated that a complete measure of legislation upon the subject would be introduced next session, of which he could not now give the detail, but towards which the first step advisable was to close the door to any fresh importations, by which the Government would hereafter be able to estimate the fixed quantity with which they would have to deal, in place of being compelled to act with regard to an amount unknown, and would then be enabled with greater certainty to proceed