

who took the Oath, and was escorted to his seat.

HON. MR. CAMPBELL introduced a Bill to incorporate the Canadian Gas Lighting Company, which was read a first time.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HON. MR. KAULBACH, after a few remarks, put the following Question:—Whether it is the intention of the Government to dredge the harbor of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, this year, in accordance with the prayer of petitioners and favorable report of Mr. Perley, C.E., of the Public Works Department, made thereon in 1872, owing to the rapidly increasing tonnage of the port?

HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST was understood to reply, That the attention of the Government was concentrated upon the harbors that most required improvement. All the Government dredges are constantly at work on the harbors which most require dredging, and Mr. Perley has instructions to reach them all as soon as possible. The new dredge, now finished in the Clyde, will be out early in the spring, and add to the strength of the fleet, and give the Government an opportunity of sooner reaching certain harbors which cannot be touched at present.

HON. MR. KAULBACH next inquired, Whether it was the intention of the Government to submit, during the present Session, a measure enforcing Pre-payment of Postage on Letters?

HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST answered, That a Bill would be proposed to make certain changes in postal arrangements, and pre-payment would be necessary.

HON. MR. KAULBACH inquired, Was it the intention of the Government, during the present Session, to bring in a Bill to make uniform the rate of Interest on Bills, Notes, and other mercantile transactions?

HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST answered, That it was not.

HON. MR. LETELLIER said, that in accordance with the view entertained by the House when the matter came before it on Friday last, he would move that the 84th Rule of this House be amended by leaving out "one hundred dollars, and inserting "two hundred

dollars" in lieu thereof, and that the Senators in attendance on the Session be summoned to consider the same. He said this was to equalize the amount paid for private bills with that for divorce bills. He thought the one ought to be assimilated to the other, to indemnify the House for the expense incurred in connection with these divorce bills. In some cases the increased amount might constitute a hardship, tending to deter or prevent poor people from obtaining an advantage considered important to them; but he thought that in such special cases the House might relieve the party from paying a portion of the amount.

HON. MR. CAMPBELL said he quite concurred in the amendment of the rule, but a point was missed the other day as to the new rule applying to petitions yet to be presented this Session. It could not apply to petitions already presented. He could not see any particular hardship, however, in applying it to all petitions after this day. He did not see any reason why the House should not change the rule, and why, when changed, it should not apply to all petitions presented after this day.

HON. DR. CARRALL said he would oppose the Resolution. In the absence of any divorce court in the Dominion, and considering the enormous expense that litigants were put to in many ways, in their efforts to get justice, the actual amount was more than sufficient. Instead of creating new barriers to prevent those seeking redress at our hands from coming here, existing obstacles should be removed. People in remote parts of the Dominion were debarred from redress by the enormous expense attending a journey to the Capital, and the bringing up of witnesses. This, no doubt, precluded a great many from seeking the desired redress. Persons in moderate circumstances in Ontario and Quebec even, might obtain relief were the expenses not so great. As to the fee for private bills, the majority of those bills were for charters for schemes out of which money was to be made, the promoters generally being men of means; whereas, in the other cases, applicants for relief may be poor and yet deserving of redress. (Hear, hear.)