

the Confederation, yielded a revenue last year of \$217,000. This revenue was, previous to the union, collected through the Customs Department, without the expense of extra officers. After Confederation, however, an Excise Department was established, and last year it cost the country \$8,000 extra to collect this \$217,000 of duty. Here was a chance for some reform, to save the country this useless expenditure. Then, in the conduct of the Penitentiary of New Brunswick, the gentleman who was in charge of it managed it for a salary of \$1,000 a year, but the Government wished to make place for a supporter, and that gentleman was superannuated, on a salary of \$800, although well fitted to discharge the duties of the office, and another was appointed at \$1,400. If hon. gentlemen could prove from these circumstances that they were Reformers, and had reformed the expenses of the country, they had not proved it to his satisfaction.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said the Minister of Agriculture had entirely failed—had not even attempted—to reply to the remarks of his hon. friend (Mr. Macpherson), and it was therefore quite unnecessary for him (Mr. Campbell) to renew the charge against the Government of extravagant expenditure. But the Hon. Secretary of State had been as facile in his replies as he had been on several occasions during the session, without due regard to their correctness. When his hon. friend (Mr. Macpherson) had shown an increase in the Department of Justice of from \$398,000 in 1874, to \$499,405 in 1875, the hon. gentleman said:—"Oh, it's the Mounted Police." He found, on looking into the account, that the Mounted Police had nothing to do with this increase, as their expenses were in another column, and were not included in the Administration of Justice account. The Hon. Secretary of State must have known this, and yet he had endeavoured, as he had previously done half a dozen times that session, to lead the minds of the House away from the truth.

The Bill was read the third time and passed.

The House adjourned at 10:30 o'clock, p.m.

WEDNESDAY, April 12.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 11 o'clock.

After routine,

The following bills, reported from the Committee on Banking, Commerce and Railways, with amendments, were read the third time and passed: The Atlantic and Pacific Fire and Marine Insurance Co. Bill; The Maritime Savings and Loan Society Incorporation Bill; and the British Canadian Loan and Investment Co.'s Bill.

THE COMMITTEE ON PROHIBITION.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on Prohibition, which recommended that an address be sent to His Excellency the Governor General, requesting him to submit the question to the Judges of the Supreme Court for their opinion, being called,

Hon. Mr. VIDAL asked whether there was any objection to the address?

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST thought it extraordinary that the Senate should submit such questions to the Judges. They ought not to deprive themselves of their own judgment, and it would not be consonant with the dignity and powers of this Chamber to accede to an address in a matter of this kind. He hoped the hon. member would not press the motion; the question was fairly before the country, and the Government might look into it.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL asked, as the hon. Minister of Agriculture thought this a simple question, whether they had the power to legislate for the prohibition of the manufacture, sale and importation of intoxicating liquors.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST said Parliament had a right to deal with all questions of trade.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL said his own opinion inclined that way, but the Hon. Premier, when the deputation waited upon him, thought there were constitutional difficulties in the way, and stated that that question would have to be settled before there could be any legislation on the subject. He could see no impropriety in asking the opinion of the Judges on this point. The Provincial Legislatures claimed to have the sole right to deal with intoxicating liquors, and if they really have that power the Dominion had no right to interfere. It was important to have this decided, and he certainly would not consent to the withdrawal of the mo-