

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, December 13, 1867

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

OTTAWA RIVER

The petition of **Mr. Currier** and others praying that certain obstructions to the navigation of the River Ottawa might be removed, and for improvement to the Grenville and Carillon Canal was read and received.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Morris introduced a Bill to provide for the carrying into effect of capital punishments within prisons. He remarked that it was not a question of whether it was desirable that executions should take place under official sanction, surrounded with all the safeguards that were necessary to satisfy the public mind that the executions had really taken place, but whether they should take place under the public gaze. The question had engaged a great deal of attention in England. In 1856 a Committee of the House of Lords reported in favour of this measure. In Germany it was in force with the best advantage. In Austria, also, the same plan was adopted, and the evidence taken on this subject was overwhelming in favour of such a step. He would simply call attention to the matter, and hoped during the recess it would receive that consideration which its importance deserved.

Second reading to take place to-morrow.

SESSIONAL ARRANGEMENT

On motion of **Hon. Sir J. A. Macdonald** it was resolved—That when the House adjourns at its second sitting, this day, it stand adjourned until Saturday, at 3 o'clock p.m., and

That during every day next week there shall be two distinct sittings; the first from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and the second from 7:30 p.m. till the adjournment of the House.

EXCISE

Hon. Mr. Rose moved concurrence in the Excise resolutions, reported from the Committee of Ways and Means.

99038—18½

Hon. Mr. Holton said it had been impossible for him to prepare himself for an intelligent discussion of the more important features of the resolutions, owing to the short time they had been in his hands. He was quite free to admit the propriety of extending to the whole Dominion the same system of customs and excise as at present existed in Ontario and Quebec, but as very little change was proposed by these resolutions in the old Canadian tariff, and as the tariff is to undergo further revision during the second part of the session, it would have been better merely to extend the old Canadian tariff to the Maritime Provinces. Under the circumstances, seeing they had not the usual opportunity of discussing this question in its different stages, he did not propose to raise a discussion upon several points that under other circumstances he would have done.

Hon. Mr. Galt regretted that the Government had brought down the resolutions during this part of the session, and hoped they would not press their passage. He said this as their friend and supporter, and with no desire to embarrass them. He was sorry the returns relating to trade in all the Provinces had not been before the House previous to the consideration of the customs and excise. He felt sure that such a return would go far to remove that hostile feeling to these resolutions expressed by gentlemen from Nova Scotia. In the case of Nova Scotia, he believed they would show that increased taxation would have been imposed upon them by their own Legislature, if Confederation had not taken place nearly, if not quite as large, as that proposed by this measure. For the year ending Nov. 30, 1866, there was a deficiency, quoting from the year book, between the revenue and expenditure of Nova Scotia, amounting to \$163,000. The Customs revenue during that year was larger than formerly, amounting to \$1,211,000; but he would ask the honourable Minister of Customs if there had not been a falling off in the importations into Nova Scotia since that time?

Hon. Mr. Tilly—Yes, a considerable falling off.

Hon. Mr. Galt—It was quite evident that while the expenditure in that Province had