

explained that this was merely a reenactment of the law of the late Province of Canada which permitted the Speaker to call another member temporarily to the Chair when necessary.

THE FENIAN DANGER

Sir John A. Macdonald introduced a Bill removing the act of last session to authorize the apprehension and detention of persons suspected of committing or meditating acts of hostility against Her Majesty's Government. Sir John said this was a reenactment of the law passed on first day of last session and which continued till 30th June, 1867, or end of the coming session. It was a law which had been found to be of essential service. The circumstances existing at the present moment were not so threatening as those existing at the time when the law was passed. They were still such, however, as in the opinion of the Government required that it should remain on the Statute Book. The hazard of invasion was not so great now as it appeared to be at that time, but there could be no doubt that the organization which had threatened us still exists, and the Government had distinct evidence of increasing activity on the part of that body. It was beyond a doubt true and had been stated in the public prints that there had gone recently a very considerable deposit of arms at convenient points along the frontier for the invasion of what was the former Province of Canada. The Government therefore felt it would not be proper to allow Parliament to adjourn without having the law reenacted. The Fenian body were now pursuing a course of outrage in England. They were also moving in Ireland. They were manifestly a widely extended organization, and the Government should be authorized, if necessary, to arrest parties who might seem to be engaged in any unlawful enterprise against the peace of this country. (Hear, hear). When the House met again in February, if the circumstances then existing should warrant such a step, the Act might be at any time repealed.

Hon. Mr. Dorion enquired if it was intended to put the measure through all its stages at once, as was done last session.

Sir John said this was unnecessary, as the law was still in force. The Bill would be printed, and the House would have full time for considering it.

[Sir John A. Macdonald (Kingston)]

PUBLIC WORKS

Hon. Mr. McDougall introduced an Act respecting the Public Works of the Dominion of Canada. He said this was based on the Public Works Act of the late Province of Canada, and was adapted to the new situation in which we extend to the public works of the other Provinces.

LOCAL MINISTERS SITTING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Sir John A. Macdonald moved the following resolution:—Notice having been taken by a member of this House that the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, a member of the Executive Council and Attorney-General of the Province of Ontario, and the Hon. Christopher Dunkin, a member of the Executive Council and Treasurer of the Province of Quebec, have been sitting and voting in this House during the present session, it be, therefore, resolved that it be referred to the Standing Committee of Privileges and Elections to enquire whether the said John Sandfield Macdonald and Christopher Dunkin have a legal right to sit and vote in this House. Sir John said the Government were under the impression that that was the proper course to pursue. In regard to the point taken by the member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) objecting to members of the Privy Council sitting in this House, he could only say if the honourable gentlemen opposite decide to challenge their right to their seats they were prepared to maintain it.

Mr. Blake—Then, Sir, I may give notice now that at an early day I will raise that question.

Dr. Tupper said, he rose not to remark upon the motion, but to make a statement on behalf of the honourable member for Montreal West, who was suffering from severe illness, which would probably detain him from the House for a considerable length of time. In the course of the debate the other night, the member for Hants regretted that the member for Montreal West was not in his place, in order that he might reply to that honourable gentleman. He (Dr. Tupper) was desired to state that the member for Hants might at any time express himself freely with regard to the member for Montreal West, who, if worth while, would reply when he made his appearance in the House.

The motion was then carried.