

COL. T. R. FERGUSON

The order of the day being called for the motion by **Mr. Mills**, for the report of the Court of Enquiry in reference to the conduct of Lieut. Col. T. R. Ferguson, while on his way to Niagara frontier during the Fenian invasion, Mr. Mills did not happen to be in his place.

Mr. Ferguson said he had no objection to the report being laid before the House, but he did not choose to let this motion remain on the notice paper so long as it pleased the honourable member to let it remain for the purpose of tantalizing and annoying him. (Cries of "Drop, drop".)

Sir John A. Macdonald said a motion of this kind, affecting the character of a member of the House, should not be entered upon lightly, and if entered upon at all, should be disposed of promptly. He thought it should be either proceeded with or dropped.

Mr. Mackenzie said this was the first time the motion had come up. He had sent for the member for Bothwell, and believed he would be here presently. The notice could be called again when the honourable gentlemen was in his place.

Mr. Ferguson asked the Leader of the Government to say whether he (Mr. Ferguson) had ever spoken to him on the subject except to desire a court martial and a full investigation of the case.

Sir John A. Macdonald, in reply, read a note he had just received from Mr. Ferguson, saying he would be glad if a court martial were granted. The note, he remarked, should have been addressed to the Minister of Militia.

Mr. Mills a few minutes afterwards entered the House, and took the first opportunity which presented itself of moving his motion.

Hon. Mr. Cartier said the circumstances of this case had transpired before he had taken charge of the Militia Department. He was not aware what the information asked for was; but if it was of similar character to that asked for a few days ago in the case of Col. Dennis, he thought it should not be granted. He would ask the mover of the motion to let it stand over till he (Mr. Cartier) had made inquiry into the case.

The motion was accordingly allowed to stand.

REPORTING THE DEBATES

The motion being read for the adoption of the fifth report of the Printing Committee relating to an official report of debates,

Mr. Mackenzie said as many members had gone, he would drop the motion, intending to bring it up during the next part of the session. Meanwhile, of course, the reporters who had been taking notes under instructions from the House would be paid for their trouble.

Sir John A. Macdonald quite concurred in this proposition, and said the reporters would continue to take notes.

Mr. Pope objected to the House being pledged to pay the reporters.

Sir John A. Macdonald said if the House did not, he and his honourable friend from Compton (Mr. Pope) would pay them themselves. (Laughter).

The matter then dropped.

THE NORTH-WEST

In answer to **Mr. Mackenzie**,

Hon. Mr. McDougall said it was the intention of the Government to present the Address to Her Majesty respecting the North-West as speedily as possible. The Imperial Government were also anxious to dispose of the matter, and he hoped when the House met again to be able to lay before them the conclusion which the two Governments had arrived at. The resolutions and amendments would be sent along with the Address.

RAILWAYS AND CANALS

Mr. Macfarlane's Bill respecting the regulation of traffic on railways and canals, was, at the request of the Premier, laid over till next session. The Government promising to bring a measure then which would cover the object of said Bill.

STAMP DUTIES

In Committee of Ways and Means,

Hon. Mr. Fisher strongly objected to extending the imposition of stamp duties to the Maritime Provinces. It would not bring in much revenue, and would be a great burden, especially upon the rural districts. It was the last mode of raising revenue which should be resorted to. He hoped the Government would postpone this measure, at any rate till next