

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said the government should have made enquiries in order to ascertain whether this increase was necessary before making it. The sum was not large, but the principle of making an increase on the representation of these gentlemen was a bad one.—The item passed.

One item, 168, miscellaneous expenses in the North-West, not otherwise provided for, \$33,800.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN MACDONALD asked why there was an increase of \$23,800,

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said as a bill was soon to be brought down giving this information in detail, it would be better to let the item stand.

The Committee rose and reported the resolutions.

The House adjourned at ten o'clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Tuesday, 23rd February, 1875.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three P.M.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR RECEIVING PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. RYMAL moved that the time for receiving petitions for Private Bills be extended two weeks and the time for receiving Private Bills and Reports thereon for a like period.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said it was usual to give some extension of time in the early stages of the session, but he would invite his hon. friend the leader of the House, to state explicitly that this was the only extension to which he as leader of the House would give his consent. The practice of bringing forward private bills at a very late period of the session when it was quite impossible to give them the consideration which their importance frequently demanded, was one which he thought should be put an end to. The notices given according to the rules of the House meant something or they meant nothing. If they meant anything there was no reason in the world why applications for private bills should not be before the House within the prescribed delay. His own experience in one of the leading Private Bill Committees of the House had led him to the conclusion that it was utterly impossible to bestow the care and deliberation

Hon. Mr. Cartwright.

absolutely required in the interests of sound legislation upon bills which were hurried in under a suspension of the rules during the last days of the session. He would therefore urge his honourable friend to resist any application which might be made hereafter for the suspension of the rules, thus doing away with those conditions with which the House had surrounded Private Bill legislation.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD hoped the Premier would think twice before he accepted the suggestion of the hon. member for Chateaugay. Private Bill legislation was not a matter of political importance. It was not a matter of party politics, and it was not necessary that the whole power of the Government need be invoked to prevent the extension of time under any circumstances. He had no doubt that the Premier would take care that the interests of every one affected by any Private Bill should be protected. He (Sir JOHN) would be very sorry to see a cast-iron rule adopted which would prevent the introduction of a Private Bill after the usual time had expired, no matter how urgent it might be. The question of the extension of the time might be safely left to the Premier and to the majority of the House.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said there was a good deal of conversation upon this subject during the last three sessions, consequent upon the repeated introduction of motions to suspend the rules. The extension of time, if reasonable, was not in itself objectionable; but still it was not desirable to have Private Bills introduced suddenly, at a late period of the session, when it was impossible to give them due consideration. It would not be well to prohibit by absolute rule under any circumstances the introduction of a private bill after the delay fixed by the rules, because cases of urgency might arise in which the House would be unanimous in desiring to extend the time; but he thought the extension of time once asked for by the committee should not be exceeded.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said this continual prolongation of the time during which private bills might be received was equivalent to an abrogation of the rule of the House. If it was the sense of the House that the rule should be abrogated, he had not a word to say, but if it was important