

June 12, 1872

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 12, 1872

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at three o'clock.

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*Prayers*

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After Routine,

### SPEAKERS' DECISIONS

**Hon. Mr. BLANCHET** moved that the Speaker and the Committee for the internal economy of the House be authorized to print the precedents and decisions of the Speakers from the Union of the two Canadas in 1841 to date. He hoped no objection would be made, as it was important that these should be published.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** thought this should have been referred to the Library Committee, and on their report the matter should then have come up.

The motion was carried.

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### MISCELLANEOUS

**Mr. BARTHE** moved for a return of the claims of Messrs. P. H. & A. Lemoine for certain lands in Sorel.—Carried.

**Mr. WHITE (Hastings East)** moved resolutions on the subject of lands lying within the Indian reserves in the township of Tyendinaga, in Hastings. It proposed to sell a certain portion of these lands, by which the Indians would be largely benefited.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** did not see how the resolution could pass. The land was the property of the Indians and could not be sold without their sanction. Surely the territory of the Dominion was large enough to spare part to the tribes. He was not surprised that the lands were occasionally coveted, but the Indians should be treated as favoured children. If the lands must be valued, that would be done by the Indian Department and he had no doubt they kept trace of that.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said there might be reasons for feeling dissatisfied at the presence of large bodies of Indians near towns. Wherever these were, however, they must be treated fairly and their rights respected.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** agreed with the Minister of Justice (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) but the question arose if the Indians should not be emancipated and their lands divided among heads of families so as to come under the national law of property. In some cases this, he knew, might be done without inconvenience, but properly each case should come up by itself.

**Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL** called attention to the official name of the Indians translated into French *sauvages*, which was offensive to them.

**Mr. BOWELL** explained the object of the resolution to be to enable a portion of the land had on lease by whites to be sold, and the proceeds devoted to their benefit. There were eight hundred acres in this position out of eighteen thousand, and the land was constantly deteriorating in value.

After further discussion the resolutions were withdrawn, **Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** promising that the attention of the Indian Department would be called to the subject.

**Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North)** said, at the beginning of this parliament, owing to a fit of economy, 12.5 per cent was deducted from the salaries of all officers of the House. He believed that the House had gone too far in that direction, as the salaries were not excessive. In the Civil Service Act progressive salaries were authorized, but the officers of this House did not come within that Act, and had no chance of a rise. He thought that if injustice had been done, it should be rectified.

He moved, seconded by the **Hon. Mr. HOLTON**, and the Question being put, "That whereas this House, during the first Session of the present Parliament, in order to economize its expenditure, reduced the salaries of certain of its Officers and Clerks by an amount equal to 12.5 per cent, per annum, and no increase has since been made to the said salaries, or to the emoluments of the said Officers, excepting in a few cases:

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this House such of the officers and servants of this House, as the Commissioners may consider entitled, from length of service or capacity, should have reasonable addition to their salaries, as will compensate them fairly for their work for the current year, and until their cases may be considered by this House."

The House had recognized the injustice that had been done, and one or two motions had been made to remedy it in exceptional cases. There was an officer who occupied a seat at the table in this House who had been forty years in the public service and who actually received less salary than he had fourteen