

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 15, 1868

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Morris moved, in accordance with the report of the Private Bills Committee, that the time for receiving petitions for private Bills be extended to the 23rd instant; for receiving private Bills to the 30th instant; and reports on private Bills to the 14th of May. Carried.

PROVISION FOR MR. MCGEE'S FAMILY

Sir John A. Macdonald moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, to return His Excellency the thanks of this House for his gracious message, to assure His Excellency that they deeply participate in the severe loss the country has sustained in consequence of the murder of the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, member of Parliament for the electoral district of Montreal West, of which most atrocious act they cannot in terms sufficiently strong express their abhorrence, and being desirous of marking their sense of the public and private virtues of Mr. McGee, and of affording relief and assistance to his afflicted family, they beg leave to assure His Excellency that they shall feel it a grateful act of public duty, under the melancholy circumstances of this afflicting case, to enable His Excellency to make such provision for the widow and family of the Hon. Thos. D'Arcy McGee as may be consistent with the justice and liberality of Parliament. He said he did not think any remarks were required in support of the resolution he had just moved. The feeling of the country had been most unmistakably expressed in the deep sorrow and universal wail which had passed over it from one end to the other. The feeling was unanimous that Parliament would be wanting in its duty to the country if provision for the widow and family of Mr. McGee were not made by the public. (Hear, hear).

Hon. Mr. Holton said another opportunity would be afforded the House of expressing those feelings which he was sure were enter-

tained by every member of the House on the subject of this resolution. He simply rose to say that he entirely approved of the step the Government had taken, and whatever might have been the personal or party relations in which as members of this House they might have stood to the lamented gentleman who was the subject of this address, and who had been taken from them in so atrocious a manner, he was fully persuaded that their constituents would approve of adequate provision being made for those he had left behind.

Mr. Mackenzie said so far as the views of those with whom he usually acted in this House were concerned, they entirely approved of the proposition brought down by the Government, believing that it was a necessary consequence of the deplorable tragedy of last week, that the State should take charge of those who had been bereft of their natural supporter. Indeed, such was the position held by their lamented colleague, and so many friends had he in all quarters, that if the State had failed in its duty to make provision for his widow and family, ample provision would have been made for them by private friends. When the House came to consider the amount to be granted, he had no doubt the gentlemen on his side would be able fully to agree with the Government.

Mr. Morris said it was well known that Mr. McGee was a man of genial sympathies, warm heart, and open hand, and not one likely to accumulate this world's wealth. He hoped, therefore, Government would propose such a sum as would enable the widow to discharge the liabilities which might be found to exist against the deceased, and at the same time leave her in a position of such comfort as the country would desire to see her placed in.

Hon. Mr. Gray said no doubt another opportunity would be afforded to the members of this House to express themselves very fully on the subject. At present he only rose to say, as coming from a Province in which the labours of Mr. McGee were not so extensively known and perhaps his personal influence not so strongly felt as in Ontario and