

now to raise its voice, will take the earliest opportunity to inflict a summary penalty upon those persons, offenders for the second time, who having once betrayed, when entrusted with power their country's honour, and having been forgiven, have now taken advantage of the opportunity which a too confiding people conferred upon them to betray in the same transaction her most vital and material interests.

Mr. LANGEVIN. At this late hour of the evening, I think hon. gentlemen will agree with me, it would be better to adjourn: I accordingly will move that the Committee rise and report progress.

The Committee rose and reported.

House resumed; and (at 11:45 o'clock, p.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 16th December, 1880.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

NEW MEMBER.

The SPEAKER informed the House that the Clerk of the House had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery a certificate of the election and return of P. Valin, Esq., for the Electoral District of Montmorency.

The hon. member was introduced by Mr. Langevin and Mr. Ca-on, and took his seat.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, as follows:—

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I thank you heartily for your loyal and dutiful Address. You may rely upon my earnest wish to co-operate with you in your efforts to improve the welfare of the people of the Dominion.

LORNE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OTTAWA, December 16th, 1880.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. BOWELL moved that a Select Committee comprising Messrs. Bechard, Charlton, Colby, Desjardins, McDonald (Cape Breton), Ross (Middlesex), Scriver, Stephenson and White (Cardwell), be appointed to supervise the official report of the Debates during the present Session.

Motion agreed to.

HALIFAX INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHEY introduced a Bill to amend chapter 32 of the Acts of 33 Victoria (1870), intitled: "An Act to empower the Police Court of the City of Halifax to sentence juvenile offenders to be detained in the Halifax Industrial School."

Mr. ANGLIN asked the hon. member to explain the purport of the Bill.

Mr. RICHEY said that, under the Act which it was proposed to amend, the Police Court of Halifax had power to send juvenile offenders to the Industrial School of Halifax, instead of sending them to prison or penitentiary, and to assess for their maintenance. A great difficulty had been occasioned by persons offering inducements to the boys to escape from the control and management of the Industrial School, and it was proposed by the present Bill to impose penalties upon persons who were accessories to their escape. The Bill provided that any person who aided or offered in-

ducements to boys to escape, or harbored them or prevented them from returning to the School shall, on conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$80. That was the purport of the Bill, and it was found necessary to introduce it in order to give effect to the Act.

Bill read the first time.

SUPREME COURT ACT.

Mr. KEELER introduced a Bill to repeal the Supreme and Exchequer Court Acts and the Act amending the same.

Mr. ANGLIN. Objection was made last year, by myself, to the introduction of a measure of this kind. My feeling then was that the House should have met a proposal of this kind in *limine*, declaring at once that it saw no reason to entertain it. The leader of the House, however, declared at the time that to permit its first reading should be regarded merely as an act of courtesy to the member introducing the Bill, and in that view of the matter I shall offer no opposition to the first reading of this Bill.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I went a little further last year. I said that all measures should be accepted at the first stage unless they were objectionable on their face, placing as little limit as possible, not merely upon the freedom of discussion, but upon the freedom of any member to bring up any subject for discussion. My hon. friend has strong opinions with respect to the constitution of this Court, and he has a right to be heard. My opinions with regard to it are the same as last year, but I shall listen, as it is my duty to do, to all the arguments my hon. friend will advance.

Bill read the first time.

CONTRACT FRAUDS.

Mr. CASGRAIN introduced a Bill for the better prevention of fraud in relation to contracts involving the expenditure of public money.

Mr. DESJARDINS. Explain.

Mr. CASGRAIN. It has been observed, for a number of years, that contractors for Government works have resorted to many means in order to defraud the Government of getting the benefit of the lowest tender. We have seen, of late, that in some of the public departments private information has been given to intending contractors, in order either that contracts might be withdrawn, or that securities given by contractors might be withheld. In a case which lately occurred it appears that the Government has been the loser, by an exchange of contracts, to the sum of nearly \$217,000. This is a fraud practiced against the public Treasury. A law ought to be framed that will reach all such delinquents. The Bill I now propose is intended to prevent a recurrence of such cases as we have lately seen. The Bill also provides that all public contractors shall be forbidden, under severe penalty, to subscribe, either directly or indirectly, to election funds. It is notorious that in recent cases immense sums of money have been subscribed by private individuals in the hope of getting contracts thereafter. The Bill provides for the punishment of such persons, and also of such persons as allow the secrets of their department to leak out in order to favor certain parties—a punishment both by fine and imprisonment—in order to attach a mark of odium to persons guilty of such practices. I will willingly resign this Bill to the Government if they will take charge of it, as I think it is their duty to do. If not, I shall do my utmost to press its passage through the House.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I would apply to this Bill the same remarks as I made with reference to the Bill just introduced by the hon. member for East Northumberland (Mr. Keeler). At the same time, I think my hon.