

House of Commons Debates

FIRST SESSION, SIXTH PARLIAMENT.—50-51 VIC.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 30th May, 1887.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. BERGIN Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call attention to the omission from the division list on disallowance of railway charters in Manitoba of the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Purcell), who voted against the motion of the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson).

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to say—

Some hon. MEMBERS. The hon. member for Glengarry.

Mr. BERGIN. The hon. member for Glengarry desired me to bring this matter before the House, and he can explain it himself.

Some hon. MEMBERS. The hon. member for Glengarry.

Mr. SPEAKER. If the hon. member does not wish to explain, I do not see how I can press him to do so.

Mr. MILLS. I should like to ask the First Minister when we may expect the papers in reply to the motion adopted by this House relating to the resignation of the High Commissioner, relating to the appointment of his successor, and to the object of the late High Commissioner's visit to this country, the time when the residence in London belonging to the country was closed, and who has since occupied it?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I promised the hon. gentleman that the information would be brought down at once. I am rather surprised it has not been brought down. I will enquire into it. In regard to the subject brought up by the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Bergin), the hon. member for Stormont has stated that he was instructed by the hon. member for Glengarry to bring up this point, to state the fact that he had voted against the motion of the hon. member for Marquette, and we should like to know whether that was the fact or not.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The Minutes will tell.

Mr. MILLS. I have information from the west, and I should like to know whether there is any foundation for it or not. I understand the Government have communicated with the revising officers throughout the country, telling them that they are not to act on the law and discharge those duties which the law has imposed on them; and I should like to know whether the Government have made such a communication to the revising officers, and, if so, upon what authority it has been done? I believe, it was customary in the time of Charles I, to exercise a dispensing power.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MILLS. I am putting a question.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is more than a question.

Mr. MILLS. That was the position in those days; and I should like to know whether the Government are about to act in like manner now.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has certainly a right to ask a question, but there is another rule which says that questions must not be accompanied by comments.

Mr. MACKENZIE. This is a matter of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER. As a matter of decorum, the ordinary rule should be followed in this case as well as in other cases.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MILLS. I have no intention whatever of dissenting from your ruling, Mr. Speaker. I know, however, that the English practice is—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MILLS. I am simply stating a fact: that the English practice is for a member to make his question intelligible. I am not dissenting—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair, chair.

Mr. MILLS—from the Speaker's ruling.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair, chair.

Mr. MILLS. I have put a question, and I want an answer to it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. If the hon. gentleman will give two days notice, we will answer it.

Mr. MILLS. Hear, hear.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is the only way to treat the hon. gentleman.

Mr. MILLS. Then, I give the hon. gentleman notice now.

Mr. SCARTH. I rise for the purpose of making a personal explanation. The following is part of the *Toronto Globe's* report of the speech of the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson), on the question of disallowance:—

"For instance, the member for Winnipeg stated to the people that if elected he would use his influence with the Government to have the disallowance policy stopped."

Mr. SCARTH denied that he had used such an expression."

Now, I did not deny that statement. The hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson) stated that I said on a platform