

April 24, 1874

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 24, 1874

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers

DEFECTIVE VENTILATION

Hon. Mr. CAUCHON called attention to the bad ventilation of the House, which was positively killing. He said that last year a committee had been appointed to consider this matter and that the ventilation was now worse than before. Indeed a number of members were now sick, and believed the defective ventilation had much to do with it.

Hon. Mr. ROBITAILLE said a committee had last year been appointed to consider this matter, but the ventilation was no better, because it was said that the bad atmosphere was not on account of the impure air being brought here into the House but because of the manner in which the air was brought here and distributed.

Mr. PLUMB said he had never before seen a room ventilated as this was and believed that its condition was fraught with much danger to the lives of the members. He alluded to the oppressiveness of the atmosphere on the night of the ball, which was, he heard, caused by the bad gas, but when fresh air was brought to drive it away, the atmosphere became still more impure than before. He trusted that some mode would be devised to give better ventilation, more equable heat and purer air.

Mr. BROUSE said the foul smell on the night of the ball was attributed to the foul air which had been introduced, but such was not the case. It was partly to be attributed to the improper method of ventilation, as well as to the gas, which was not properly filtered and came in its impure state. He said the Committee of last session had made a number of suggestions which had not been properly carried out; otherwise there would have been a change, and the atmosphere would not be so unsupportable.

Mr. LANDERKIN said that as one of the members who acted on the Sanitary Committee last session, he thought he might be permitted to state that the improved ventilation required by this House was not likely to be secured by appointing another Committee. The late Committee called the attention of the Board of Works to several causes that produced impure atmosphere in the chamber, and also suggested a remedy for these evils. Some attention to the air ducts at that time was highly necessary, as some stagnant water was found in them. That he believed has been removed, and now the air came in pure through those sources.

The situation of the chamber rendered ventilation more than ordinarily difficult. To such an extent were the members of the

Committee impressed with that fact, that a general feeling prevailed that the new library should be chosen for the legislative chamber. That, however, did not, from some cause or other, find its way into the report. The suggestion of the Committee that the chamber should be ventilated with warm air was, no doubt, a very useful one, but it required some time to arrange the apparatus to carry it into effect. He did not think it would be wise to interfere with the present system until it was thoroughly tested, and the defects pointed out and removed. It was impossible to carry out every suggestion made relative to the matter. He believed those having the management of the matter were endeavouring to carry out the wishes of the Committee, but it required some time, and the appointing of another Committee was at present unnecessary.

Mr. CURRIER denied that the gas was impure, and said that the bad odours were attributable to other causes.

The matter was then dropped.

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STANDING ORDERS REPORT

Mr. RYMAL brought up the fifth report of the Committee on Standing Orders, respecting certain petitions for a Prohibitory Liquor Law.

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PETITIONS PRESENTED

Mr. WILKES presented a petition from the Northern Extension Railway Company, asking for an Act of Amalgamation with the Northern Railway Company of Canada.

Hon. Mr. CAUCHON presented petitions from the Harbour Commission and leading merchants and shipping owners of Quebec, praying for a grant in favour of the graving dock.

Mr. O'DONOHUE presented the petition of H.M. Clarke and others of the city of Toronto, against the passage of a prohibitory liquor law.

A number of petitions in favour of the passage of the same law were presented.

A number of petitions were also presented asking for Acts of Incorporation.

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MERCANTILE AGENCIES

Mr. DOMVILLE presented the first report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the Mercantile Agencies system.