

mit to Parliament documents which his Ministers by their action in this House had said to Parliament would be laid before them.

**Mr. Masson (Soulanges)** briefly tendered to the Minister of Militia his congratulations on his receiving the dignity now conferred on him.

The matter then dropped.

#### Dr. TUPPER IN ENGLAND

**Hon. Mr. Dorion** asked if Government had any information to lay before the House with regard to Dr. Tupper's proceedings since his arrival in England.

**Sir J. A. Macdonald** said the Government had no information on the subject.

#### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

**Sir J. A. Macdonald**, in Committee on this Bill, stated that after mature reflection he had decided on retaining on Bill the longer form of Oath of Allegiance, instead of the short form, given in the Union Act, that shorter form was merely a formal renewal of Oath of Allegiance. The longer form was more suitable for administering to those who took the oath for the first time, as it defined more fully what the allegiance sworn to was.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### CURRENCY BILL

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Rose** the Bill respecting the Currency was read a second time, and referred to Committee of the Whole to-morrow.

#### PRIVILEGES OF PARLIAMENT

On motion of **Sir J. A. Macdonald** the Bill to define the Privileges of Parliament was read a second time, considered in Committee of the Whole, and ordered for a third reading to-morrow.

#### CONTINGENCIES

**Hon. Mr. Rose** moved the Bill respecting Contingencies of Departments to be read a second time, and referred to a Committee of the Whole to-morrow.

**Mr. Young** said the Minister of Finance was entitled to every credit for introducing a Bill of this kind. He thought it would be a great improvement on the existing system. He hoped, however, a clause would be introduced requiring the printing of the public departments to be given out by tender.

**Mr. Mackenzie** said when the Bill was introduced he had asked the Minister of Finance whether he intended to apply the provisions of the Act to the printing of the departments, and the honourable gentleman said he would consider the matter and announce his intention at the second reading. The printing was a very large item. There were appropriated this year for contingencies of departments, \$187,000 in all. Probably one-sixth of this sum would be expended on printing. He hoped a clause would be inserted in the Bill giving the Auditors control over the printing. In past times there had been a great abuse in this matter. Extraordinary accounts for printing had been rendered to the departments and had been paid by the departments without any supervision by the Directors. If these accounts were submitted to the auditors of the Dominion, they would be much more likely to be moderate and proper.

**Hon. Mr. Rose** said the 13th clause of the Bill required each deputy head to furnish to the Finance Department an estimate of the probable quantity of stationery, etc., which would be necessary, and of the probable amount of printing and binding.

**Mr. Mackenzie**—That does not meet the case at all.

**Hon. Mr. Rose** said the service must be ordered before its performance by the deputy head, and that the Clerk of Contingencies was required to certify that the price asked for the service performed was reasonable. If he was in doubt he referred it to the Auditor, and if the Auditor was in doubt he referred it to the Board of Audit.

**Mr. Mackenzie** did not think this was sufficient. He would probably be able to show when the House was again in Committee of Supply, that officers of departments were in the habit of certifying things to be reasonable which were most unreasonable. He wanted these accounts to pass, as a matter of course, under the supervision of the Auditor, who was the only officer that could be properly responsible for their correctness. The auditors in matters with which they were not practically acquainted, were in the habit of receiving such information from practical men as would enable them to decide on the merits of any account. The clerk of Contingencies had no authority to do so, and if he attempted anything of the kind it would be considered an inquisitorial act, to be resented by the parties presenting the accounts. In the case of