

Mr. CHARLTON. I should like it to be hung up now, though, if it should be any detriment to the Minister of Marine in speaking, it might be hung afterwards; but I would like the question settled now.

Mr. MITCHELL. I presume that when an hon. gentleman asks for such a simple thing as that a map should be placed on the wall for the illustration of his speech, there can be no possible objection to it.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There does not seem to be any objection, but if the hon. gentleman would allow the matter to stand until the recess at six o'clock, a map might be put up during the two hours we are away.

Mr. CHARLTON. That would answer very well, unless some gentleman should require it for purposes of illustration before six o'clock.

ORDER FOR PAPERS.

Mr. MULOCK. Before the House proceeds with the Orders of the Day, I would like to call attention to another matter. At the first meeting for business of the Public Accounts Committee, held ten days ago, an order was made that the Militia Department should produce before the committee certain documents and vouchers. These papers are, no doubt, pretty voluminous, and it has been the custom, heretofore, to have them placed in the hands of the clerk of the committee for the inspection of those interested in them, prior to the meeting of the committee. It is ten days since that order was made by the Public Accounts Committee, and the committee has not yet been called together, and, up to the meeting of the House this afternoon, the order has not been complied with by the Militia Department, although it has been complied with by the Auditor General. If the Public Accounts Committee is at all to discharge its duties satisfactorily in examining into the expenditure of the \$36,000,000 spent last year, its orders should be complied with. I may say further, that the fact of the first meeting of the Public Accounts Committee being held in the fifth week after the opening of Parliament, is hardly a proper compliance with the spirit of the House in establishing a Public Accounts Committee for the purpose of auditing the Public Accounts. If this information is withheld, or only given at a time when it is useless, then, I would submit whether there is any necessity for continuing the committee at all.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The order of the Public Accounts Committee was communicated to my department the same day or the day after. I gave immediate instructions to have the papers prepared. The hon. gentleman says they have not yet been furnished. I will enquire into the matter and see the cause of the delay, but, so far as my instructions are concerned, I gave orders to have the papers prepared forthwith. The work is voluminous, and possibly the clerks may be at work yet, but I shall enquire and let the hon. gentleman know to-morrow.

Mr. MULOCK. The hon. member was present at the meeting when the order was made, and, therefore, it did not take until the succeeding day for him to know that such an order had issued; nor do I think the excuse of taking time to copy the papers is a valid one. I want the originals, and the order of the committee was for the originals.

Mr. McMULLEN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw attention to the fact that although we are now in the fifth week of the Session and a great many orders have been granted for returns, only seven returns have been brought down. If hon. members are to discharge their duties intelligently, they must be put in
Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN.

possession of these returns in fair time. I hope the Government will see that they are brought down without further delay. We have had a great many brought down which are either statutory returns or returns ordered last year. It appears to have become the habit to bring down returns the Session following the one when the orders were given. This system should be stopped, if hon. gentlemen are to discharge their duties properly.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am informed that not only the returns ordered by my hon. friend from York (Mr. Mulock) have not been brought down, but that quite a number of other returns moved for by my hon. friend from Brant (Mr. Somerville) and ordered by the Public Accounts Committee to be prepared, have not yet been brought down. It is quite true that the Public Accounts Committee have only had two meetings, one of which was for organisation, but we have now been five weeks in Session, and if the Government cannot bring down papers ordered, it will make the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee a perfect farce.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE, &c.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I call the attention of the House to item No. 9, respecting bills of exchange, cheques and promissory notes. I intend moving the House into Committee on this Bill on Tuesday next.

SPEEDY TRIAL OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

House resolved itself into Committee on Bill (No. 17) to make further provision respecting the speedy trial of certain indictable offences.—(Sir John Thompson.)

(In the Committee.)

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. It was thought better to re-enact the Statute than merely to amend it, and it has been altered in such a way as to be applicable to the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The provisions relating to indictable offences will be administered in those Provinces by the county court judges, and I have several amendments which I will place before the chairman for the purpose of simplifying some of the provisions of the Bill as originally drafted. As regards the subject of jurisdiction, in order to remove all doubt and difficulty, I propose that the Bill shall not come into force, in the Provinces mentioned, until concurrent legislation be adopted by their Legislatures. Communication has been had with the Province of Nova Scotia, during recess, and I believe an enactment will be passed in the Nova Scotia Legislature to confer the jurisdiction on county court judges there. It may be that this Parliament has the power to do so, but I think it inexpedient, even if we had the power, to exercise it without the concurrence of the authority which has constituted the court. I intend, therefore, to ask for an amendment which will bring the Bill into force only by proclamation.

On section 2,

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I propose to strike out subsection *b* and sub-sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in that clause, and to substitute other provisions.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). By the British North America Act, the constitution of courts of criminal jurisdiction are under the provincial Legislatures. Is not the hon. gentleman undertaking to interfere with that jurisdiction of the provincial Legislatures? You are not creating a court for the better administration of the laws of Canada, but you are stating what is the jurisdiction, or in what court a criminal shall be tried for the offence of which he is charged.