

must necessarily be regulated by the same, inasmuch as the Government for the time being was, to a certain extent, responsible for their management.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY.—Responsible to whom?

Mr. CAMERON.—To the public, as each individual member was responsible to his own constituents. He had no doubt but there might be instances where new appointments were necessary for other reasons than political ones; while, in other cases, a change would probably be injudicious and uncalled for. He considered the Bill under consideration necessary for the construction of these courts, the establishment of which had been recently petitioned for.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The result of the whole argument of hon. members opposite was, that the introduction of this Bill was merely an idea got up for the present day, while it was an acknowledged fact that both parties had done the same. But the fact was simply this, their positions had now changed, and with that change new light had dawned upon them. They saw that they had done wrong; but yet would keep us from doing right, by preventing the passing of this Bill if it was in their power to do so. We had but to go back to 1861 to ascertain what was then done. The Bill brought in in 1851 raised the sum that could be recovered in these courts to twenty pounds, and he would like to know if those who were appointed to adjudicate on sums for ten pounds, were not also capable of adjudicating on sums for twenty pounds. He considered it far better to pass a short Bill like this one than to be putting the country to the expense of publishing a long Act containing fifty or sixty pages. It was better to have an Act that would enable the Government to reconstruct these courts as occasion might require. He quite readily acknowledged the principle advocated that the courts should be independent, as it was a just and a sound one. But our friends opposite had made them purely political. The court in his district was removed and filled with party men, and of course this court would have to be purged. He would like to see these courts so constructed that no objection could be taken to them, and to accomplish so desirable an end, and to save the country a good deal of unnecessary cost, this Bill had been brought in by the Government, and he hoped that it would receive the support of the House.

On the question being put on Mr. Brecken's amendment, that the Bill be read a second time this day three months, there appeared

For it—Messrs. Brecken, McLennan, Prowse, Green, Owen; Hons. Haviland, Henderson, McAulay—8.

Against it—Hons. Attorney General, Davies, Laird, Colonial Secretary, Howlan, Callbeck; Messrs. McCormack, Kichham, G. Sinclair, Arsenault, Jenkins, Reilly, Cameron, McNeill, P. Sinclair, Howat, Bell—17.

The main motion was then carried, the Bill read a second time, committed to a committee of the whole House, and reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN presented a Bill to alter the Act relating to the Revenue. He explained that its object was to admit Canadian flour coming in bond through the United States, duty free. He was fully of the opinion when the Revenue Act was under consideration that a special provision to this effect was unnecessary; but on enquiry he had since learned that the Act would not meet the case of Canadian flour coming by Portland or other U. S. routes, and this short Bill had been prepared to remedy the omission.

Mr. OWEN said that he was glad the hon. member was coming to right views on this subject. He (Mr. O.) had prepared a resolution when the House was in Committee on the Revenue Bill making the same provision as did the Bill now introduced; but he had to withdraw it through the opposition of the hon. member for Tignish and his colleagues in the Government.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION did not think that any private member of the Government should seek to introduce such a Bill in the way proposed; it ought to have come through the Committee on Ways and Means.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT differed in opinion from the hon. member. The Bill was for diminishing and not for increasing a tax.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION said there was at least this objection to the manner in which the Bill was introduced, there was no notice in the Order Book that such a measure was to be brought forward; and further there was a resolution of the House that no new matter should be introduced after a certain date. He was not opposed to the principle contained in the Bill; but the rules of the House should be observed.

On motion, certain rules of the House were suspended, and the Bill read, committed to Committee, and reported agreed to.

Militia Bill.

The order of the day for the second reading of the Bill to add to and amend the Act for the regulation of the Militia and Volunteer forces being read—

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL on moving that the House should now go into the order of the day, said he did so on his own responsibility. It was thought necessary, for the efficiency of the Militia force, by the officers in charge of that department, that there should be some amendments in the present Act; and he had therefore undertaken to introduce this Bill, though he was of opinion that it contained two or three clauses which he could not support. Still he considered that some of its provisions were very necessary. If we had a Militia force at all, it was absolutely requisite that its officers should have authority to enforce discipline. All the clauses in this Bill were taken from the Act for a similar purpose in Nova Scotia. Some parties, he believed, thought that this Bill was very strict in regard to discipline; but it was not more so than was found necessary in the neighboring Province. The Bill, however, also contained exemptions as well as restrictions; it relieved all Volunteers from being jurymen, constables, and some other like duties. He believed also that the Fire Companies wished to be exempt from Militia duty. Several of the fines under the Act had also been reduced. He deemed it his duty to bring the Bill before the House, and had no doubt it would receive support, as on looking around him he saw so many hon. members present who were gallant officers in either the cavalry or infantry branch of the Militia service.