

Mr. Holton said that, of course, in the absence of the Minister of Finance, it would be undesirable to make any remarks as to his fitness for this office; but the honourable leader of the Government would see that in view of the well known opinions of that gentleman—(Mr. Rose)—on trade questions, as developed last session, the public of the Dominion would be interested to know the change, which had taken place in the personnel of that, by far the most important department of Government. Of course it was fresh in the recollection of every member of the House, that in the session of 1866, the commercial policy of the late Minister of Finance, Mr. Galt, had no more strenuous opponent in this House than Mr. Rose.

Sir John A. Macdonald—He voted for that policy.

Mr. Holton—The honourable gentleman says he voted for it which would have been to say, what he would not otherwise have said. In the absence of the Hon. Minister of Finance, that honourable gentleman made a very elaborate speech against that tariff, he applied every variety of argument to it, and was among the strongest opponents of it, and the question which would most interest the people of the country, was not as to the individual who was to receive the appointment, but as to its bearing on the commercial policy of the country. Of course in the long negotiations which have taken place as to the acceptance of office by Mr. Rose, it might be fairly assumed that this had been the difficulty—how to reconcile his views as a high protectionist, with the views of Government, and he (Mr. Holton) thought the conclusion reached as to the public policy as affected by this change were fair subjects of enquiry, and he hoped his honourable friend, the leader of the Government, would be prepared to state them.

Sir John A. Macdonald said he did not propose to discuss the position of the honourable Minister of Finance in his absence, but he could state that the monetary policy of the Government which was framed on the 2nd of July last, when Mr. Galt was appointed Minister of Finance, would be carried out.

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Holton intimated that to-morrow he proposed calling the attention of the House to a question of privilege, namely, position of certain officers of the Crown in the Provinces

of Ontario and Quebec, as bearing upon their right under the independence of Parliament Act to occupy seats in the House. He had proposed doing so to-day, but his honourable friend the member for Cornwall was absent, and not having had an opportunity of communicating with the leader of the Government before the meeting of the House, he concluded to postpone it until to-morrow, and gave this intimation. Before sitting down, he wished to enquire of the Minister of Inland Revenue when he might look for the public accounts of the late Province of Canada. We had none for the two years ending July 1866 and 1867. And also when the trade and navigation returns for the same period would be brought down.

Hon. Mr. Howland said the public accounts would be submitted to-morrow, and the trade and navigation returns in the course of the week.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY

Sir John A. Macdonald brought down a message from His Excellency to the House of Commons, as follows:—

I thank you for your dutiful and loyal address, and for the assurance that the important business to be submitted to you will receive your attention.

KAMOURASKA ELECTION RETURN

On motion of Sir John A. MacDonald, Mr. Langevin, the Clerk of the Crown in Canada, attended with the return of the last election of the County of Kamouraska, and all other documents received by him connected therewith.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Mr. Bellerose—Wednesday next—Bill entitled "an Act respecting timber on the navigable rivers of the Dominion."

Hon. Mr. Connell—Wednesday next—Address for returns of names of all officers or employees connected with Parliament or Departmental Buildings, with salaries, etc.; the amount expended on Buildings, amount due or claimed to be due on contracts for erection of Parliament Buildings, and estimate of the cost of completing the same.

Hon. Mr. Connell—Wednesday next—Enquiry whether the government contemplate making any further survey of the different routes for the Intercolonial Railway previous to locating the line; if so, what line they intend to survey, and whether a measure for