

WAYS AND MEANS.

Mr. BOWELL moved :

That this House will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

DEBATES COMMITTEE.

Mr. BOWELL moved :

That a Select Committee be appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of this House during the present Session, with power to report from time to time; to be composed of Messrs Baker, Béchard, Charlton, Colby, Davin, Desjardins, Ellis, Innes, Royal, Scriver, Somerville, Taylor, Tupper (Pictou), Weldon (Albert).

REPORT.

Report, Returns and Statistics of the Inland Revenues of the Dominion of Canada, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1887.—(Mr. Costigan.)

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 6:10 p. m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 27th February, 1888.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

The following members, having previously taken the oath according to law, and subscribed the roll containing the same, took their seats in the House:—

Hon. Sir CHARLES TUPPER, G.O.M.G., Member for the Electoral District of Cumberland, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Hon. Mr. Thompson.

Major General JOHN WIMBURN LAURIE, Member for the Electoral District of Shelburne, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper.

REPORTS.

Report of the Minister of Justice as to Penitentiaries in Canada, for the year ended 30th June, 1887.—(Mr. Thompson.)

Annual Report of the Minister of Public Works, for the fiscal year 1886-87, on the works under his control.—(Sir Hector Langevin.)

Annual Report of the Department of Militia and Defence of the Dominion of Canada, 31st December, 1887.—(Sir Adolphe Caron.)

The Public Accounts of Canada, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1887.—(Sir Charles Tupper)

Report of the Auditor General on Appropriation Accounts, for the year ended 30th June, 1887.—(Sir Charles Tupper.)

Annual Report of the Department of the Interior, for the year 1887.—(Mr. White, Cardwell.)

Tables of the Trade and Navigation of the Dominion of Canada, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1887, compiled from Official Returns.—(Mr. Bowell.)

Mr. MITCHELL.

CONTROVERTED ELECTION.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved :

That the certificate of the Honorable Mr. Justice Osler, dated the 17th day of November last, in the matter of the controverted election for the Electoral District of the County of Kent, in the Province of Ontario, which was laid before the House on the 23rd instant, be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

He said: This seat, as is known, was vacated on trial, and the judge's report is as follows:—

“That there is reason to believe that corrupt practices have prevailed extensively at the said election.

“I am not, however, of opinion (so far as I can form an opinion from anything which came before me on the trial) that the enquiry into the circumstances of the election has been rendered incomplete by the action of any of the parties to the petition, or that further enquiry as to whether corrupt practices have prevailed extensively is desirable, by which term I understand likely to prove useful or effectual.”

If it had not been for the last portion of the certificate which I have just read there would not have been any doubt that a writ could not issue except by the House. The 48th clause of the Controverted Elections Act, Revised Statutes, is as follows:—

“When the judge, in his report on the trial of an election petition under this Act, states that corrupt practices have, or there is reason to believe that corrupt practices have extensively prevailed at the election to which the petition relates and that he is of the opinion that the enquiry into the circumstances of the election has been rendered incomplete by the action of any of the parties to the petition, and that further enquiry as to whether corrupt practices have extensively prevailed is desirable, no new writ shall issue for a new election in such case except by order of the House of Commons.”

It would appear that in any of these cases the writ must be hung up until the House orders its issue. However, there has been a difference of opinion in the matter, and some authorities, and important authorities, state that under the construction of the whole of the clause in Chapter 9, read by the light of Chapter 10, which refers to the issue of commissions whenever the judge reports that the evidence has been incomplete, or that there is likely to have been some connivance between the parties, a Royal Commission can issue, and under that provision the Speaker cannot issue his writ without the assent of the House. It is under these circumstances that I make this motion.

Mr. LAURIER. I would ask the hon gentleman, under the circumstances, that as this is a motion which is somewhat obsolete, and that this is only the second instance I am aware of when a similar motion has come before the House, to let it stand until to-morrow.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Certainly.

Mr. LAURIER moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. AMYOT moved first reading of Bill (No. 2) to amend the Dominion Controverted Elections Act.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Perhaps the hon. gentleman might give us some idea of the nature of the Bill.

Mr. AMYOT. This Bill is the same as the one I presented last year, but it was too late in the Session to pass it through its various stages. Its object is to fix a uniform delay for the contestation of elections, and not to make the date depend on the publication of the return in the official Gazette.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

SUPERVISION OF BANKS.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked, Is it the intention of the Government to adopt during this Session some measure for the better supervision of the Banks in the Dominion?