

April 27, 1874

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, April 27, 1874

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers

PETITIONS PRESENTED

The **SPEAKER** laid on the table a list of stockholders in certain banks, and the petitions of certain firms, praying that the use of seines be abolished in the catching of codfish.

A large number of petitions were presented in favour of a prohibitory liquor law, including several by **Mr. YEO** from Prince Edward Island, signed by over 4,000 persons.

Several petitions were also presented in favour of protection to manufacturers, including one signed by 1,232 inhabitants of the city of Hamilton, presented by **Mr. IRVING**.

Mr. WILKES presented the petition of the Northern Railway Co. praying for an Act to enable them to change their gauge and for other purposes.

Mr. POZER introduced a Bill to amend the Act 29 Vic., Cap. 17, of the late Province of Canada. The Bill was read a first time.

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SECOND READINGS

The following private Bills were read a second time:—

Bill to amalgamate the Canadian Telegraph Supply Manufacturing Co. (Limited) with the Toronto Manufacturing Co. (Limited), under the name of the Electric and Hardware Manufacturing Company (Limited).

Bill to incorporate the Bank of Ottawa—**Mr. BLACKBURN**.

Bill to incorporate the Calais and St. Stephen Railway Bridge Co.—**Mr. APPLEBY**.

An Act for granting certain powers to the Richelieu River Hydraulic and Manufacturing Co.—**Mr. JODOIN**.

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THE UPPER SAINT JOHN

Mr. COSTIGAN asked if the Government intended continuing the improvements on the Upper Saint John by repairing the towpaths, removing obstructions, and completing the channel through the Little Falls, so called, by building a pier at that point,

out of the amount placed in the estimates for the improvement of navigable rivers.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: The Government do not intend to make any improvements above the point where the river is navigable.

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MAILS TO THE WEST INDIES

Mr. FORBES asked whether any steps had been taken during the last year by the Government to establish a semi-monthly steam mail service between the British and Foreign West Indies and the Dominion of Canada.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry) said it was not the intention of the Government to take the matter up this year. It had, however, engaged their attention and would be considered between this and the next session of Parliament.

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RECIPROCITY

Mr. PALMER enquired whether the Government had taken any, and what, steps to negotiate a reciprocity treaty between the United States of America and Canada; and if so, what progress had been made thereafter and whether or not the same is likely to succeed.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: The Government have some negotiations in progress and when they are complete they will be happy to inform the hon. gentleman.

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THE FISHERIES QUESTION

Mr. PALMER enquired whether any, and what, steps had been taken by the Imperial Government for the appointment of a Commissioner to act with the Commissioner appointed by the United States of America to settle the amount of compensation, if any, which should be paid by the latter for the fishery privileges conceded by the Washington Treaty, as provided in sections 22, 23, 24 and 25 of the said Treaty; also whether any, and what, steps have been taken by the United States Government in relation to the said matter.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: Neither the Imperial Government nor the United States Government have informed us what they have done in the matter.

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