

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 17, 1868

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

ELECTION PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker intimated that he had examined the recognizances of the election petitions with reference to Berthier, Verchères and Hochelaga, and found them unobjectionable.

Mr. Speaker read a letter from **Hon. J. C. Chapais**, stating that he had accepted a seat in the Senate, and withdrew his petition claiming a seat in the House for Kamouraska.

Mr. Walsh moved that order referring said petition to General Elections Committee be discharged. Carried.

Hon. Mr. Dorion asked if Government would immediately have a writ issued for a new election.

Sir John A. Macdonald said he would state the course Government intended to take. He would move to-morrow that the petition be referred to the Standing Committee on Petitions and Elections, with instructions to investigate the matter, but he would consult the member for Hochelaga before making the motion.

Hon. Mr. Dorion could not see the object of such a reference, when there was no pretense now that there was an election at all. It might be proper to have an investigation to ascertain who were the guilty parties, if any; but he saw no reason for delaying the writ unless Government was prepared to say some legislation was necessary with respect to that county.

Sir John said the question whether there should be legislation was an aspect of the case which he thought the House should consider.

PRINTING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Mackenzie presented the report of the Printing Committee, recommending the printing of various papers, and also that one copy of all the documents of this Parliament be

sent to all the members of the Local Legislature in both branches. He moved that the reports be adopted. Carried.

INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT

Sir John A. Macdonald gave notice that on Friday he would introduce a Bill for securing the Independence of Parliament; also a Bill respecting provisions of both Houses of Parliament and members thereof.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

Mr. Jones (North Leeds) moved an address for all correspondence, reports, etc. respecting location and construction of the Intercolonial Railway since 3rd December, 1867. Carried.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORY

Mr. Jones (North Leeds) moved an address for all correspondence had with the Government respecting the North-West Territory, including British Columbia, since 5th December, 1867.

Hon. Mr. Holton, who seconded the motion, said he understood yesterday from the Leader of the Government that there had been no reply yet received to the address of the two Houses of Parliament on this subject. As Government, however, assented to this address, he assumed there had been some correspondence, but if there was no reply from the Home Government, it couldn't be of much consequence.

Sir John A. Macdonald said there had been no correspondence with the Home Government, except the despatch transmitting the address of both Houses; and the only other papers which could be sent down related to the desire of British Columbia to be admitted into the Union. As soon as the answer from the Home Government came, it would be brought down without delay.

Hon. Mr. Holton doubted whether the limit fixed in the address, 5th December, was correct.

Sir John A. Macdonald—You seconded it.