

Of C. H. Fairweather, President, and others, members of the St. John, New Brunswick, Board of Trade.

Of Robert H. Kittson, and others, of Sorel, in the Province of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. BENSON said the petition from St. Catharines had been favorably reported upon in the Committee of the other House, and did not understand why there should be a distinction.

Hon. Mr. SANBORN replied that the Committee only adhered to the decision they came to last year in reference to such subjects.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON said there was a difference of opinion as to the construction of the British North America Act.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said that under existing circumstances it seemed as if all that could be done was to let each House pursue the course it thought proper. He was of opinion that the Boards of Trade were of a provincial or local character.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Hon. Mr. WARK suggested to the Government whether some system might not be devised by which more business might be originate in the House.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL replied that Committees had been appointed in the House of Lords, where the same difficulty was felt, but no action had been taken to remove it. The most important measures, of necessity, originated in the other branch. During this session, however, one very important measure, the Bill respecting Public Lands was before the House, and would be taken up next week. Bills respecting Immigration Societies, and on other subjects, would come up for consideration. So far as the members of the Government and the House were concerned, they had every disposition to initiate as many measures as practicable in that branch.

The House then adjourned.

MONDAY, 6th May, 1872.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3 o'clock, p.m.

BILLS.

Hon. Mr. SANBORN introduced a bill to amend the Act respecting St. Francis and Megantic Railway.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL introduced an Act respecting quarantine.

ENQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. MACFARLANE asked the Government whether any regulations have been made by the Government for main-

taining the drill sheds in Nova Scotia, to what uses are they to be applied and at whose charge are they at present. He explained that these drill sheds which had been raised previous to Union at considerable expense by Local Governments, and by private subscriptions, were now lying useless or converted into workshops, and otherwise used for private purposes.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL had not fully understood the purport of his hon. friend's enquiry, and would look further into the question.

PRINTING.

On motion of Hon. Mr. SANBORN, the report of Joint Committee on Printing was adopted; it alludes to expenditures of the past year, to the economical management of the service, and satisfactory manner in which Mr. Hartney performs his duties.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS moved the second reading of the Bill respecting publiclands, and in doing so stated that the preamble showed that it referred exclusively to Manitoba and the North West Territories. The measure dealt with the whole land question in its entirety, and inclusive of timber and minerals. The system of survey had been discussed elsewhere during the previous session, and the policy there favored had been embodied in an Order of Council, and the surveyors subsequently sent out to the territory. The system differed very little from that adopted in the United States, but there were one or two exceptions. For instance, the bill made provision for roads, as also for the convergence or divergence of meridians. The lines bounding townships on the east and west sides, shall in all cases be true meridians and those on the north and south sides shall be chords intersecting circles of latitude passing through the angles of the townships. The townships shall be numbered in regular order north-erly from the international boundary or 49th parallel of latitude, and shall lie ranges numbered, Manitoba east and west from a certain meridian line run in 1868, after the 'Principal Meridian,' drawn north-erly from the 49th parallel at a point two miles or thereabouts westerly from Pem-bina. In the United States they had certain governing lines, but their town-ships were laid out east and west, and they had no such provisions as in our bill. Under the system of survey, the country is laid out in blocks of four townships each by projecting the base and connect-ing lines—the map showed this—and east and west meridian boundaries of each