

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, December 16, 1867

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Macfarlane moved that the time for receiving petitions for Private Bills be extended for ten days from this date.—Carried.

LONDON BOARD OF TRADE

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Carling**, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill to render valid certain appointments made by the London Board of Trade.

Mr. Blake said this was a Bill enacting that the appointments of several official assignees by the London Board of Trade, an incorporated body at the date of those appointments should be valid. As there had been a decision in favour of the validity of appointments by unincorporated boards he thought legislation unnecessary; but secondly, if held to be necessary, he thought such legislation should be in the form of a declaratory not an enacting Act; thirdly, if there was to be any legislation at all it should be made general, and not apply to appointments made merely by one board, otherwise the inference would be that appointments by other unincorporated boards not confirmed by the legislature were invalid.

Sir John A. Macdonald was glad the matter had been brought under his attention, and moved that the Committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again, so that it might be considered whether a general Bill should be introduced, or whether there was any necessity for legislation at all. The motion was agreed to.

NOVA SCOTIA ELECTION EXPENSES

Dr. Tupper enquired of the Minister of Finance whether Government had considered the course they proposed to take with reference to the question he had brought before the House as to the payment of election expenses.

Hon. Mr. Rose said the Government had considered it. It appeared that the accounts

against the Public Treasury of Nova Scotia by returning officers, were in some instances not more than one pound ten shillings. The candidates themselves had paid the remainder of the expenses to the amount of \$720. Government had come to the conclusion that it would be fair that the expenses should be borne by the Dominion, and he would recommend an item of \$720 in the estimates for that purpose.

Hon. Mr. Holton doubted the propriety of an *ex post facto* payment when the candidates had incurred these expenses under the existing law of their own Province.

ST. LAWRENCE AND OTTAWA RAILROAD

On motion of **Mr. Crawford (South Leeds)**, the Bill to incorporate the St. Lawrence & Ottawa Railway Company was considered in Committee of the Whole, and ordered to be read a third time at the next sitting of the House.

BANK OF UPPER CANADA

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Cameron**, the Bill for the settlement of the affairs of the Bank of Upper Canada was considered in Committee of the Whole. In moving the House into Committee on this Bill, he said three alterations had been made in it. There was a provision introduced that no dividend shall be declared or paid until the same shall be sanctioned by the Governor-General in Council. Secondly, that the trustees shall receive for their own remuneration the sum of \$4,000 per annum, to be divided in such proportions as they shall themselves agree upon. Thirdly, that nothing in the Bill shall invalidate the liability of any shareholder, nor the rights of creditors against shareholders, and that the right of the Government and the priority of their account shall not in any way be impaired or diminished.

Mr. Mackenzie—Is there any change different from what was agreed to by the shareholders?

Hon. Mr. Cameron—None whatever.