

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, April 6, 1868

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

ARGENTEUIL PETITION

The following members were sworn at the table to serve on the Select Committee for trial of the Argenteuil election petition, viz., Messrs. Ault, Colby, Cartwright, Daoust, and Webb, Chairman.

The House having adjourned for five minutes to enable the Committee to sit, leave was granted on resumption, for its adjournment to the 23rd instant.

MEASUREMENT OF COAL

Mr. Brousseau introduced a Bill to amend the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada by alteration of the enactments affecting the measurement of coal, and the second reading was fixed for Thursday.

QUESTIONS

MURRAY CANAL

Mr. Keeler—Whether it is the intention of the Government to make provision in the estimates for the construction of the Murray Canal, for which ample reservations of lands were made in the year 1796 and subsequently—which lands have been sold, but the proceeds of which sales have not been appropriated to the original object?

Hon. Mr. McDougall said it was not the intention of the Government during the present session to make provision in the Estimates for the construction of the Murray Canal. Several parties interested in this important work had recently had interviews with members of the Government, and the matter would engage their attention.

STATUTES

Mr. Cartwright—Whether the attention of the Government has been called to the difficulty experienced by members of the legal profession and others in procuring copies of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada and Up-

per Canada, and whether it is the intention of the Government to take any steps to supply the deficiency, and when?

Hon. Mr. Cartier stated it was not the intention of the Government to take steps to supply the deficiency of copies of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, complained of by members of the legal profession.

MERCHANTABLE TIMBER

Hon. Mr. Blanchet—Whether it is the intention of the Government to bring down, during the present session, a measure to assimilate the laws of the several Provinces of the Dominion respecting the inspection and measurement of merchantable timber?

Hon. Mr. Rose said the Government would not be able this session to introduce a measure to assimilate the laws of the several Provinces of the Dominion respecting the inspection and measurement of merchantable timber.

THE CANALS

Mr. Workman—Whether it is the intention of the Government, in view of the present early Spring and early opening of river navigation, to adopt the necessary steps to secure an equally early opening of the public canals, and thereby confer upon the mercantile community the great advantage of cheap freights and quick despatch in moving to market the produce and merchandise of Eastern and Western Canada?

Hon. Mr. McDougall said the Government had adopted steps to make the necessary repairs on the canals, so as to secure their early opening.

RIVER SAINT JOHN

Mr. Costigan—Whether it is the intention of the Government to make provision in the estimates for the improvement of the navigation on the River Saint John and its tributaries, Madawaska and Tobique?

Hon. Mr. McDougall said the Government had taken measures to repair, or rather rebuild, certain bridges over the River Saint John.