

The session of 1872 opened later than usual. Parliament did not meet until the 11th of April. A noticeable feature was the presence for the first time of members from British Columbia. The Governor-General's speech adverted first to the Prince of Wales's recovery and the appointment of a Thanksgiving Day; stated that the late meeting of Parliament had been at the instance of the Imperial Government; mentioned the Fenian attempt on Manitoba, and invited the attention of the Legislature to the Washington Treaty, Pacific Railway, Immigration, Canals, and several other measures; announced the flourishing state of the Dominion finances; asked for supplies, and congratulated the House on the general prosperity of the country. In the Commons the usual motions for committees were made; the Report of the Librarian presented, and the House adjourned.

April 12th.—COMMONS.—The Address was moved by Mr. Nathan, of British Columbia, seconded by Mr. Carter, of Brome, passed and ordered to be printed, and the House adjourned until Tuesday the 16th.

April 16th.—SENATE.—First reading of an Act respecting the Dominion Public Lands; address of congratulation to Her Majesty on the recovery of the Prince of Wales; death of two members announced, and the House adjourned as a mark of respect.

COMMONS.—Returns laid before the House; addresses for correspondence; special committee appointed to appoint the standing committees. Some discussion on Crown Lands in Manitoba.

April 17.—SENATE.—Papers asked for. Census returns sent by the Governor-General.

COMMONS.—Census returns submitted; expenses of the Manitoba expedition submitted. Motion by Mr. McGill, seconded by Mr. Workman, for a select committee upon Manufactures, which was granted. Discussion upon a pamphlet of Hon. Mr. Howe and that gentleman's defence. Committees appointed.

April 18th.—SENATE.—Committees appointed. Hon. Mr. Campbell promises a new patent law, and Hon. Mr. Mitchell protection for fisheries. Papers relating to the Washington Treaty brought down.

COMMONS.—Washington Treaty papers brought down. Mr. MacKenzie and Mr. Holton complain of their having been communicated to the press. Address of congratulation of Senate concurred in.

April 19th.—SENATE.—Hon. Mr. Sanborn moves for correspondence between the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments respecting award of Provincial arbitrators. Hon. Mr. Campbell said no correspondence had taken place.

COMMONS.—Reports presented. Motion for supply. Complaint of Mr. Holton and Mr. MacKenzie as to the non-production of certain papers relating to the Washington Treaty. On motion of Hon. Mr. Howe, \$45,000 a year for five years was voted for Geological Survey. Resolutions were adopted in Committee respecting Banking. Amendment of the Dominion Note Act allowing the excess over \$3,000,000 to be held partly in specie and partly in deposits in chartered Banks. After some discussion, Sir F. Hincks also moved a resolution respecting the public debt and the raising of loans, and to establish a sinking fund on all future loans, which was adopted.

April 22nd.—SENATE.—To the inquiry respecting the improvement of navigation of Lower St. Lawrence, with a view to saving

human life, Hon. Mr. Mitchell said the subject was one of great difficulty, it not being easy to draw the line where private enterprise should be supplemented by government aid.

COMMONS.—The day was taken up with the presenting of returns and answers to various inquiries.

April 23rd.—SENATE.—Hon. Mr. Ryan moved for copies of correspondence relating to copyright. He desired to see Canadian publishers placed on the same footing as the United States, and at the same time quoted British authors. Hon. Mr. Campbell said there was no official correspondence, though there was some of a non-official nature.

COMMONS.—On the question of concurrence in the Banking resolutions, the first and second passed without opposition. To the third, respecting the reserve to be held by the Government against their circulation, Mr. Cartwright moved an amendment, that it is not expedient to entrust the Government with such power—which was lost and the resolution carried, as well as the one relating to the public debt. A Bill, introduced by Sir John Macdonald, respecting stamps, elicited some discussion as to the comparative merits of stamps and stamped paper. Mr. Colby moved the second reading of the Insolvency Bill, contending for the total repeal of the law. On account of its being St. George's Day, the House adjourned.

April 24th.—SENATE.—Hon. Mr. Campbell stated that there was a prospect of direct postal communication with the West Indies at no distant date. Hon. Mr. Mitchell said Government did not intend to station Tug Boats at any particular points on the St. Lawrence; a sum of money had been set apart to reward those who saved lives or seamen.

COMMONS.—Mr. Jones moved for a select committee on Agriculture contending for the imposition of duties on United States agricultural products. After some discussion the motion was granted. The debate on the Insolvency Laws was resumed. Hon. J. H. Cameron contending that some insolvency law was necessary, and moving in amendment that the bill be referred to the committee on Banking and Commerce, in which view he was sustained by Hon. Mr. Blake, Hon. Mr. Irvine, Mr. Workman and Mr. M. P. Ryan. Several other members opposed the amendment, and the debate was adjourned.

April 25th.—SENATE.—Marine and Fisheries report presented. Some inquiries were made respecting Bay Verte and Welland canal Reports promised.

COMMONS.—A debate took place on a motion of Mr. Bodwell, that it is desirable to adopt the 4 ft. 8½ inch gauge in the Intercolonial Railway. The motion was supported by Messrs. Mackenzie, Workman, Magill, Holton and McDougall, and opposed by Messrs. Langevin, Walsh, Shanly, Howe and Blanchet, and the debate continued till the House rose. In the evening session the debate on the Insolvency Law was resumed, when the motion in amendment was negatived, and that for the repeal of the law carried by a majority of 15.

April 26th.—SENATE.—Hon. Mr. Aiken laid on the table a map showing the progress of the Manitoba Survey, and stated that about one-half of the half-breed appropriation would be allotted in the fall of 1872. Complaints were made of the quantities of fish taken at the wrong seasons in the inland lakes and shipped to the U. S.