

Monday, 11th March, 1878.

PRAYERS.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House,—General Statements and Returns of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in the District of *Beauce*, and in the County of *Compton*, for the year 1877. (*Sessional Papers, No. 13.*)

Mr. *Smith*, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, presented,—Return to an Order of this House, dated 4th March, 1878, for a statement showing the rivers at the present moment under lease in the Counties of *Rimouski*, *Gaspé* and *Bonaventure*, and also those on the north coast of the *St. Lawrence* from the *River Saguenay* down to the *Mingan Islands*; the year in which each of such rivers was leased, and for what length of time; the name of the lessee, and the annual sum which he pays to the Government for his lease. (*Sessional Papers, No. 41.*)

And also,—Return to an Order of this House, dated 4th March, 1878, for a complete copy of the Report of the Inspector of Fisheries for *British Columbia* for 1877, with a statement of the expenditure connected therewith. (*Sessional Papers, No. 42.*)

Pursuant to the Order of the Day, the following Petitions were read and received :—

Of *E. H. Bisson*, M.P.P., and others, of *Beauharnois*; and of the Reverend *James Fulton*, M.A., and others, of the Township of *Franklin*, County of *Huntingdon*; severally praying for the adoption of such legislation as will secure the proper working of Railways in *Canada*, the construction of safe and suitable steam ferry-boats for crossing the *River St. Lawrence* in winter, and the carrying into operation of the railway from *Montreal* to the Province line *via Caughnawaga*, in accordance with the Act passed in that behalf, which placed it under the control of the Grand Trunk Railway Company.

Of *A. Campbell*, and others; and of *John Leys*, and others, Policy-holders in the *Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company*; severally praying that the Act 40 *Vic. Cap. 42*, may be so amended as to exempt them from its operation, and to permit the said Company to carry on its business under the laws of *Canada*, as they did prior to the passing of said Act.

Of *James Goodwin* and others, Directors of the *Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company*; praying that the Act 40 *Vic.*, *Cap. 42*, may be so amended as to allow the said Company to transact new business in *Canada* without further deposit than that already made under the Act 31 *Vic.*, *Cap. 48*, to be held in accordance with the terms thereof.

Of *David D. Robertson*, Chairman on behalf of a meeting of the inhabitants of the Township of *Hinchinbrook*; of *William A. Johnston*, Chairman on behalf of a meeting of the inhabitants of the Townships of *Hinchinbrook* and *Franklin*; and of the Reverend *James Watson*, M.A., Chairman on behalf of a meeting of the inhabitants of the Village of *Huntingdon*; severally praying for the adoption of such measures as will protect and secure the rights of the Indians of *Two Mountains*.

Mr. *Dymond* reported from the Select Committee on the Bill to provide that persons charged with common assault shall be competent as witnesses on their own behalf, That the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made amendments thereto.

Mr. *Burpee*, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, presented,—Return to an Order of this House, dated 20th February, 1878, for a statement showing the nature and value of all manufactures and other articles exchanged between *Canada* and the