

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—*

The Charters of several Banks are drawing to a close, and the important subjects of Banking and Currency will be brought under your notice.

In considering these questions, which so deeply affect, not only the important interests of Commerce, but the daily transactions of life, I feel assured that you will endeavour to adopt such principles as, in their application, may ensure the greatest measure of safety to the Public, without curtailing the facilities requisite for the encouragement and extension of Trade.

I have enumerated a variety of topics, but they are of moment and press for decision within the limits of the Session. I commit them in all confidence to your deliberate judgment, earnestly hoping that a blessing may attend your counsels, and enable you to discharge, with dignity and effect, the great trust to which the order of Providence has called you.

On motion of the Honorable Sir *John A. Macdonald*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Tilley*,

*Ordered*, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of the Parliament of the Dominion of *Canada* be taken into consideration to-morrow.

*Ordered*, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof; and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

*Resolved*, That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present Session be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections.—2. On Expiring Laws.—3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.—4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills.—5. On Standing Orders.—6. On Printing.—7. On Public Accounts.—8. On Banking and Commerce.—9. On Immigration and Colonization; which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

*Resolved*, That if any thing shall come in question touching the Return or Election of any Member, he is to withdraw during the time the matter is in debate; and all Members returned upon double Returns are to withdraw until their Returns are determined.

*Resolved*, That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or hath endeavoured so to be, by bribery or any other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

*Resolved*, That the offer of any money or other advantage to any Member of the House of Commons for the promoting of any matter whatsoever depending or to be transacted in the Parliament of the Dominion of *Canada*, is a high crime and misdemeanor, and tends to the subversion of the Constitution.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow.

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Friday, 16th April, 1869.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House, The Report of the Librarian upon the state of the Library of Parliament, which is as followeth:—

To the House of Commons of the Dominion of *Canada*, in Parliament assembled.

The Report of the Librarian, upon the state of the Library of Parliament,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—

That since last Session the collection of works upon French Law, which was left at *Quebec* upon the removal of the seat of Government to *Ottawa*, in charge of the Commissioners for codifying the Laws of *Lower Canada*, has been brought hither, and deposited in the Library.