

February 23, 1871

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, February 23, 1871

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at three o'clock.

Prayers

Several petitions were received.

Mr. WORKMAN presented a petition from the Montreal Board of Trade for a general inspection law; and one from the Montreal Corn Exchange, against the grain and flour duties, and setting forth the propriety of throwing off duties on the necessaries of life, in order to render this country a cheap one to live in.

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REPORTS

Mr. HARRISON presented the first Report of the Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. MACFARLANE presented the first report of the Committee on Standing Orders.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS presented the first report of the Committee on Public Accounts, and recommended the reduction of the quorum to seven members. The motion for its adoption was carried.

A similar proceeding took place in respect of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, and of the Committee on Private Bills.

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BILLS INTRODUCED

Mr. MACFARLANE moved for the introduction of an Act to amend the Railway Act of 1868. The Bill received first reading.

Mr. YOUNG moved that a notice be sent to the Senate informing them that this House had consented to the joint action proposed with a view to the appointment of a Joint Committee on Printing.—Carried.

Mr. HARRISON moved for leave to introduce a Bill to extend the right of appeal in criminal cases. The Bill received first reading.

Mr. BLAKE moved for leave to introduce a Bill to secure the independence of the Senate; it received first reading.

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

A message was received from His Excellency, thanking the House for their loyal address, and their promise to devote their earnest attention to the subjects submitted in the address to their consideration.

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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD tabled a supplementary return on the subject of the fisheries, and Mr. Campbell's mission to England.

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT intimated his desire to proceed with his motion tomorrow.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he had no objection to fixing that day. As would be seen by the cable despatches and other advices, it was necessary he should leave for Washington immediately.

Mr. BLAKE asked if the papers would be ready in print tomorrow, and if the Premier could give any further information respecting the scope of the Commission.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD replied that the papers would be printed in English by tomorrow, and that he was in no position to give the information inquired for. The cable despatches showed that the English Ministers were maintaining a reticence on this subject.

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GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY

Mr. JONES (Leeds North and Grenville North) asked whether the Government has instituted any inquiry or investigation in relation to the numerous accidents which have lately occurred on the Grand Trunk Railway, and the great irregularity connected with the delivery of the mails by that road; also whether Mr. Brydges, President of the Grand Trunk Railway is still employed by the Government as one of the Commissioners for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway.