

# House of Commons Debates

THIRD SESSION, FIFTH PARLIAMENT.—48 VIC.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 16th June, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at half-past One o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.

Mr. TROW (for Mr. CHARLTON) asked, What was the amount of the deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank of Canada on April 30th, subject to payment on demand; and also the amount of deposits subject to notice of withdrawal, on the same date?

Mr. CARLING. The balance due to depositors payable on demand, on the 30th of April, was \$14,536,747. No portion of the amount due to depositors is payable on previous notice.

### WAYS AND MEANS—DISTURBANCES IN THE N. W.

Mr. BOWELL moved that the report of the Committee of Ways and Means (June 15), reporting a resolution granting to Her Majesty the sum of \$1,700,000, to defray certain expenses connected with the disturbances in the North-West Territories, be read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. Minister of Militia stated that he would give some further information.

Mr. BOWELL. I have no recollection of that. I understood the hon. Minister to say that he had no information that he could give other than he had given, but that he had received a very large package of receipts and vouchers for money expended in the North-West, which were then under the consideration of the Department.

Mr. BLAKE. He said he hoped to be able to give the information to the House in a short time, and he stated it should be given at a subsequent stage of this Bill.

Mr. BOWELL. If the hon. gentleman will allow this motion to pass, so that I can introduce a Bill and take another stage, I will ask the Minister of Militia about the information.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Minister of Militia is unwell to-day, and is confined to his house.

Resolution read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. BOWELL introduced Bill (No. 149) to grant to her Majesty \$1,700,000 required to defray certain expenses now being incurred in the North-West Territories.

Bill read the first time.

### WASHINGTON TREATY.

Mr. MITCHELL. With the consent of the House, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. the First Minister to a matter referred to in that very reliable paper called the *Montreal Gazette*, a paper that is characterised by a great deal of literary ability and truthfulness. In a letter to that paper I find this matter referred to, which is of great interest, certainly, to the people of the Maritime Provinces. The letter refers to the fact that correspondence has been had and an arrangement entered into between the Cabinet at Ottawa and the Government at Washington, in order to promote a settlement of the fishery question. The substance of the article is this, that an arrangement has been arrived at between the Cabinet at Washington and the Cabinet here, that no steps shall be taken to prevent American fishermen coming into our fisheries until Congress meets in December next, in the hope that in the meantime such arrangement will be arrived at to settle the question, not merely for a year or ten years, but for all time. Now, as this is a very important matter, one that is creating a good deal of interest in the Maritime Provinces, and to which, I am sure, the Government is giving a good deal of atten-

tion, and as the fishery clauses of the Washington Treaty will expire in a couple of weeks, I would like to know what foundation there is, if any, for this article.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am very glad the hon. gentleman has asked the question. I think the hon. member for Digby (Mr. Vail) asked a similar question some time ago, and I told him the subject had occupied the attention of the Government, and that the papers would be brought down before the end of the Session. At this moment we are applying to the Governor General for leave from the Colonial Office to lay certain papers before the House, and I have no doubt that consent will be given at once, unless the late change there will cause some little delay. I fancy, however, it will not, and we shall bring down very important documents to be laid before the House as soon as we have authority to do so.

Mr. MITCHELL. Does the right hon. gentleman feel himself at liberty to declare whether the tendency of the article, the declaration that arrangements are likely to be come to whereby our fisheries will be open to Americans during the present season, is correct or not?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I cannot say that is correct, but I do not think it well to be more specific in my statement. It is not correct, however, that there is any engagement by which the waters will be open to the Americans, but the papers speak for themselves. I may say, however, that the tendency of all this correspondence is to give strong hope that negotiations will take place, not only with regard to fisheries, but with regard to extended reciprocity.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The hon. gentleman should state at once whether this statement in a Ministerial organ is correct or not.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. In the first place, the Government has no organ.

Mr. MITCHELL. Except the *Herald*.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. In the second place, I have not seen the article; in the third place, I do not think the Government can at all be forced, if they think it inexpedient, to make statements prematurely, and they cannot make a full statement now, or one full enough to be at all satisfactory to the House.

Mr. MACKENZIE. It is certain some Minister has made the statement to the editor of the paper.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No; that is not the case. Any statement that has been made has come from Newfoundland, which is also interested in this matter. I have no doubt as to how the statement referred to has been made. Sir Ambrose Shea, who is not a member of the Newfoundland Government, and holds no official position whatever under the Government, went to Washington not long ago, on behalf of the St. John Board of Trade, on a matter relating to Customs, and had some communication with the American Government, and some unofficial communication with the British Ambassador, and I presume these rather imperfect statements have been made from the information he gathered when at Washington.

Mr. VAIL. I am sure I need not remind the hon. gentleman that this is a very important matter. As we are getting to the 1st of July I am quite sure he feels the necessity of taking early action, so as to arrive at some conclusion as early in July as possible. I presume any arrangements that may be come to to leave our fisheries open to American fishermen will enable our fishermen to send fish to the United States free of duty?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have already stated that we merely wait for permission to bring down communications which have taken place between the Imperial Government and the Government of the United States.

### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. POPE. In moving that this House resolve itself into committee on the proposed resolutions for the Canadian Pacific Railway, it has been customary, on the part of my distinguished and