

THE GATINEAU RIVER BOOMS.

HON. MR. READ moved,

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House copies of all advertisements, tenders, contracts, reports, and all other correspondence, as well as affidavits, in connection with the construction of booms, piers, &c., on the Gatineau River last winter, and the entire cost of the same.

Seconded by the HON. MR. SMITH, and carried.

PERMANENT COMMITTEES.

HON. MR. LETELLIER gave notice that the list of the Permanent Committees of the House should be laid on the Table very shortly; but he should except one, the Committee on Printing, of which he would suggest the appointment immediately. He would submit a motion to this effect in a few minutes.

COMPLAINT OF AN IRREGULARITY.

HON. MR. CAMPBELL said:—I may be pardoned if I draw attention to what seems to me an irregularity which deserves the notice of the House. I find a Blue Book distributed containing despatches relative to the commutation of Lepine's sentence, accompanied by a Message from the Governor General, who transmits the papers for the information of the House of Commons. If this had been done in pursuance of an Address by the Commons, it would have been perfectly regular and proper; but it seems not to have been done in answer to an Address. It appears to have resulted from the mere motion and grace of the Governor General, acting upon the advice of his Government no doubt. The information was necessary for the public advantage, and likely to be of service to Parliament. Now that information is of equal interest to this House as to the Commons, and I cannot conceive why such a message should not have been sent with the information to this House as well as to the other. I do not imagine that any disrespect is intended by the advisers of His Excellency to the Senate. I cannot conceive that the

Minister of Agriculture or the Secretary of State would so far forget his duty to this House as to acquiesce in such conduct, had such been contemplated. I suppose there was an oversight, which should be checked, and am sure that this information, from the interest in those events to which it refers, which is felt here equally as in the Commons, and which seems to have been transmitted of the mere motion of His Excellency, should have come to the Upper House also. This has been the uniform course practised in this country as well as in Great Britain; nor is this a matter which should be passed over without the attention of the House being called to it. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. SCOTT—I quite agree with my hon. friend, that State papers of this nature ought to come to both Houses at the same time. But I think in this instance the transmission of the information is the result of an Address from the Commons.

HON. MR. CAMPBELL—It does not say so.

HON. MR. SCOTT—No; but I happened to be in the Commons the other day when a motion was made for these very papers. However, I shall make further enquiry, and my hon. friend may be sure, that so far as the dignity of the House is concerned, we shall be quite as watchful as could be desired. My own impression is, however, that this information is the result of a motion made in the Commons in connection with a debate on the events referred to.

HON. MR. CAMPBELL did not wish to doubt the desire of his hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Scott) to see proper attention paid to the Senate; but he thought him mistaken as to the manner in which the Address was brought down. The papers were promised at the opening of Parliament, and were sent down accordingly, but not as the result of an Address, as the Message itself showed.

HON. DR. CARRALL, with reference to the papers sent down to the Commons, said the Premier stated they were Orders in Council; consequently they could bring down no papers.

PRINTING OF PARLIAMENT.

HON. MR. SPEAKER intimated to the House that he had received a Message