

plus of receipts since Confederation of \$24,685.

MR. ANGLIN: I think, in that case, the fees ought to be reduced. There is no excuse in taking more from the owners of vessels than is necessary to pay expenses.

Vote agreed to.

XXII. INSPECTION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.

159 To meet expenses in connection with the inspection of Insurance Companies ..... \$6,000

Resolutions ordered to be reported.

House resumed.

(In the House.)

Resolutions reported.

House adjourned at  
Ten minutes after  
One o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 23rd April, 1880.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

CANADIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY INCORPORATION BILL.—[BILL No. 54.]  
(Mr. McCarthy.)

RECOMMENDED TO STANDING COMMITTEE.

MR. MACDOUGALL: I desire to call the attention of the House to a Report of the Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, presented to this House yesterday. It was with reference to a Bill sent to that Committee entitled, "An Act to incorporate the Canadian Telegraph Company." The Bill was referred to a Sub-Committee for consideration and amendment. It was reported upon by that Sub-Committee, and was afterwards ordered by the General Committee to be reprinted as amended, and I hold in my hand a copy of the Bill as reprinted with those amendments. The Report states no reason for negating this Bill. The ordinary mode is, of course, to find that the preamble has not been proven but that finding is not stated in the Report. Now, I think when this House refers a private Bill to any of the Standing Committees for report, it must be taken for granted that the House affirms or approves of the object for which that Bill has been introduced, and it is referred to

a Committee for the purpose of examination and amendment, if the Committee think proper. This Bill is simply a Bill to incorporate a number of gentlemen who apply for the authority of Parliament to enable them to construct a telegraph line or telegraph lines in this country. It was the policy of the Government of Canada, as it has been the policy of this Dominion, to give every encouragement to persons who may choose to invest their capital in the improvement or extension of telegraphy. In fact, under the General Act for the incorporation of joint stock companies, persons may associate themselves and obtain a charter without coming to Parliament at all, for the purpose of establishing telegraph lines. No one, I apprehend, will stand up and say that it is not in accordance with public policy, and the public interest, to promote competition in matters of this sort. There can be no public reason given, it seems to me, why a company who may choose to invest their capital, and are ready to afford facilities for communication of this kind, should be refused the privilege without any reason. We hear, every day, of startling improvements in the system of telegraphy, and we do not know what new discoveries may be made, what new patents may be taken out, and what new organisations, therefore, may desire to invest their capital for this purpose. I think it has been the practice of Parliament to afford facility to every enterprise of this kind. There is no good reason why these gentlemen should be denied the privilege which they have asked. They have given notice; they have paid the necessary fees; the Bill was prepared and submitted to this House; it was read and referred to the Committee, and it now comes back to us with a report that the fees be repaid. I believe, when this report was made, there was not a quorum of the Committee present. I happened to be in the Committee at the moment, and was much surprised at the statements made and some of the arguments used by members of the Committee in favour of the rejection of this Bill. I do not think those statements or arguments should prevail in this House, and, therefore, I desire to take the sense of the House upon the question: whether we are about to adopt a new policy and