

tender accepted would be submitted to the House with the advertisement.  
Motion carried.

#### RATE OF INTEREST.

Hon. Mr. DEVER, before submitting a motion on the above subject, referred to the fact that there was not, in reality, a common rate of interest throughout the Dominion. It varied in different provinces, of which the Lower Provinces had had experience. He spoke also of the importance of some measure for assimilating the rates, for the advantage of trade everywhere. He did not see why there should not be the same rate in New Brunswick as in Quebec. The present state of things was undesirable, and called for a remedy. He concluded by asking whether it was the intention of the Government during the present session of Parliament, to introduce any bill or measure for the regulation of a common rate of interest on all monetary and mercantile transactions within the Dominion of Canada?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said that the Government did not intend to take any action with regard to the matter.

#### CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved that the time for receiving petitions for private bills be extended to Monday, the 11th day of May.—Carried.

#### PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

Hon. Mr. RYAN asked if, in view of the large number of petitions for a prohibitory liquor law that were being received, Government intended to bring down such a measure this session.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the Government did not intend to bring in such a measure.

#### LIBEL.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH introduced a bill with respect to the law of libel, which was read a first time.

The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, April 21, 1874.

The House met at three o'clock, the SPEAKER in the Chair.

#### PETITIONS.

A large number of petitions, from different parts of the country, in favor of a Prohibitory Liquor Law, were presented.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD, of Toronto, sube

mitted a petition praying that Thunder Bay be made the terminus of the Lake Superior and Winnipeg section of the Pacific railway.

After other routine business,

Hon. Mr. SCOTT laid on the table the report of the Secretary of State for the financial year 1872-3.

#### PROHIBITION.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL enquired if any answer had been received to the message sent to the House of Commons, asking the appointment of a Select Committee, to act with a committee of this House in reference to the scheme of a Prohibitory Liquor Law.

The SPEAKER replied that, so far as he was aware, no answer had yet been received from the other House.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL—Inasmuch as our branch of the committee have assembled, and that we find ourselves unable to proceed with the work desired, it were well something were done towards the action contemplated. We are embarrassed with a sense of the importance of those petitions for a prohibitory law, and of the necessity of giving them that consideration which they deserved. The petitioners probably number 50,000 to 80,000 persons in this Province. Our hands at present seem tied. I observe from outside sources that action is taken by the committee of the other House without any reference to our House. I presume it has declined to accede to our request. If this is the case, I trust there is some way of ascertaining the fact, and that we may appoint our own Committee and act independently.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY—The hon. gentleman has found out by this time that the friendly criticism which I ventured to make on his action was not altogether without foundation. The embarrassment may be accounted for by the fact that this Committee was asked for after a Committee had been appointed in another place and had actually reported. This fact may give him the means of remedying the difficulty. I apprehend that was one great difficulty in the way.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL—My action was prompted by the Chairman of the Committee of the other House. He suggested I should make a motion in this Chamber, on the question. I understand from the present Chairman that that Committee is anxious to work with the Committee of this House, as suggested, that the members of the Commons Committee think this is the most desirable