

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, November 18, 1867

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Savary presented a petition from Nova Scotia, charging the Hon. W. Young, Chief Justice of that Province, with illegal conduct and other misdemeanours and praying that steps be taken for his removal from office.

IMPROVEMENT OF NAVIGATION

Mr. Mills enquired whether it is the intention of Government to make any appropriation to repair the Rondeau Harbour, and to improve the navigation of the rivers Thames and Sydenham.

Hon. Mr. McDougall replied that no answer could be given to that question, as the Government was not yet in a position to say whether the works in question would be under the control of the General or Local Governments.

COURT OF APPEAL FOR THE DOMINION

Hon. Mr. Smith enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session, a measure establishing a Court of Appeal for the Dominion of Canada.

Sir John A. Macdonald said that whatever the Government might do before the session closed, it was not their intention to introduce such a measure during the early part of it.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHING

Mr. Walsh enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a measure for securing to the Government the possession of the various telegraph lines within the Dominion, and providing for the management of the same in connection with the postal system.

Sir John A. Macdonald said the Government, before introducing a measure, would wait to see the action of the English Government on the same subject.

ASSIMILATION OF ELECTION LAWS

Mr. Magill enquired whether it is the intention of the Government in submitting a plan for the assimilation of the laws of the several Provinces of the Dominion respecting elections and the exercise of the franchise, to adhere to the terms of qualification for electors established by Clause 81, Chap. 51, Statutes of Canada, 29th and 30th Victoria, and to the repeal of sub-sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 6, Consolidated Statutes of Canada effected by the said clause of said Act of 1866?

Sir John A. Macdonald said that in assimilating the election laws, the Government would examine the qualifications of elections existing in all the provinces, and were not yet prepared to say whether they would maintain the qualifications now existing in Canada.

ANNUAL DRILL

Mr. Pope enquired whether the volunteers are to have their sixteen days' annual drill this season, and if they do, when will they be required to commence their drill?

Hon. Mr. Cartier said that the Adjutant-General had placed in his hands a memorandum on this subject, which the Government were now considering.

COMMITTEE ON BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY

Hon. Mr. Abbott moved the appointment of a committee to enquire into and report upon the nature and operation of laws of bankruptcy and insolvency now in force in the several Provinces of the Dominion—such committee to be composed of Messrs. Smith, Gray, Huntington, Irvine, Wood, Street, Casault, Crawford, Simard, Harrison, Workman, Campbell, Hugh McDonald, and the mover.

Mr. Fisher remarked that His Excellency's speech intimated that the Government would submit a measure on that subject. According to his ideas of Parliamentary Government, the responsibility of dealing with a subject of that kind should not be laid on a committee of the House when Government promised a measure.