

May 25, 1874

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 25, 1874

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 11 a.m.

Prayers

THE AMNESTY QUESTION

On the resolution of **Mr. MOUSSEAU** for an Address to Her Majesty, praying that a general amnesty be granted to all persons charged with offenses committed during and in connection with the disturbances which occurred in Manitoba in the winter of 1869-1870, being called, it was found that the hon. member was not in his place.

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CONSTITUTION OF THE SENATE

On the order for the House again to go into Committee on the resolution of **Mr. MILLS** with respect to the Senate being called, it was found that the member for Bothwell was absent.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The **SPEAKER** informed the House that he had received a message from the Senate announcing that their Honours had passed certain Bills without amendment, and the Election Bill with amendments, to which they asked the concurrence of this House.

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ARBITRARY DISMISSAL

Mr. PLUMB asked for information concerning the letting of contracts on the Welland Canal, and the dismissal of Mr. John B. Smith, Superintendent of the eastern section.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said there was no superintendent dismissed. Mr. Smith was suspended; but he had no such title as Superintendent of the Eastern Section. There was simply a letter asking that the charges against him should be investigated. There were, however, a number of letters complaining of his conduct, and one particularly complaining of partiality about water lots.

The contracts were not all given out yet. There had been a great deal of difficulty in getting perfectly good security for the performance of the contracts. Section 12 was the only one not given out at present. This section was where the Great Western crosses the canal. The Government were making arrangements with the

Company for a temporary bridge. There were two other sections the contracts for which were not quite closed yet.

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RETURN

The **SPEAKER** laid on the table of the House a return from the Clerk, giving certain particulars in relation to the employees in his office.

No important measures having been received from the Senate, the House took an informal recess till 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

AFTER RECESS

The **SPEAKER** resumed the chair at 3.25 p.m.

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SALARIES OF PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) said he found that several of the employees of the House were receiving less salary than similar officers were paid at Confederation. In fact there was a decrease of no less than \$6,300 per annum since Confederation in the salaries of officers of this House, while the Senate's officials had received an increase in the same period.

He moved that the return ordered from the Clerk be referred to the Commissioners for the Internal Economy of the House, with a view to their considering the salaries of the various officers in the two branches of the Legislature, and taking such action thereon as may be deemed necessary.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON, seconded the motion, and expressed his desire that the hard-worked officials of the Lower House should be paid salaries at least as large as the Senate officials.

The motion was carried.

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THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Mr. SCATCHERD said he had heard that the appropriation of \$500,000 for an extension to the western departmental building was to construct a residence for the Librarian. For his part, he was not prepared to expend such an amount for any such purpose.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the extension was necessary for the accommodation of departmental officers, many of whom had to work in offices temporarily fitted up in the basements of the