

to know whether, if such should be the case, the Government would give any compensation to vessel owners for the expense of altering the funnels of their steamers.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I do not know anything about the height of the bridges, but I can promise there will be no compensation.

The House adjourned at 10 p.m.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Wednesday, April 7th, 1875.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

THE INSOLVENCY BILL.

Mr. SPEAKER read a message from the Senate stating that they did not insist upon their amendments to the Insolvency Bill, to which the House of Commons had disagreed.

AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN.

The amendments made by the Senate to several Bills, including those made to the Act establishing a Supreme Court, were concurred in.

ESQUIMAULT AND NANAIMO RAILWAY.

Mr. DECOSMOS—Mr. SPEAKER, a statement appears in one of the city papers to-day to the effect that a Bill which passed this House providing for the construction of a railway between Esquimault and Nanaimo has been thrown out by the Senate. If such be the case, I desire to know from the Government what course they intend to adopt; whether they intend to proceed with the construction of that railway during the coming year in accordance with the views of this branch of the Legislature, or whether they do not intend to proceed with its construction.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I have no answer to give: I cannot tell what the Government would do under any particular circumstances.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Hon. Mr. SMITH brought down the seventh annual report of the Marine and Fisheries Department.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell.

AFTER RECESS.

Hon. Mr. VAIL brought down the appendices to the annual report of the Militia Department.

At six o'clock the House rose for recess.

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The SPEAKER took the chair at 9.20 P. M. Several amendments made by the Senate to Bills from the House of Commons were concurred in.

The House adjourned at 9.35 P. M. till to-morrow at 2 o'clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Thursday, April 8th, 1875.

The SPEAKER took the chair at two o'clock.

THE HALF-BREED LANDS.

Mr. SMITH (Selkirk) asked the Minister of the Interior, in view of the legislation that had taken place this session and the powers taken by the Government to deal with certain matters in connection with the North-West—the half-breed claims, the allotment of scrip to the heads of half-breed families, and to the Scotch settlers—he would like to know within what time a settlement of these questions might be expected. He wished to know when the distribution of lands would take place, when the scrip would be allotted, as well as within what time those having a right to the outer two miles might expect to have it opened for settlement.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said with respect to the half-breed lands, the delay had taken place last season, owing to the fact that some of those claims in dispute had been referred to the Minister of Justice. The opinion had been obtained that some of those claims would probably have to be recognized. In view of this fact the Government had sent instructions to their agent at Winnipeg to make a return of all those claims to the department, in order that they might be withdrawn from the half-breed lands. As soon as a return was received, the drawing of the half-breed lands would be proceeded with. Commissioners would be appointed as soon as possible to investigate the claims of