

PICTOU RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY asked the Government whether it is intended to afford increased facilities for the conveyance of coal over the Government line of railway, between Pictou and Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and in doing so, he stated that there had been actually a coal famine last March in Halifax. The carrying capacity of the line was unequal to the public requirements.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL replied that it was intended to afford increased facilities on the line in question—in fact, the Minister of Public Works had already commenced to make improvements in the direction required.

STATUTES.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL the bill in respect to the custody of the Statutes was read a third time, and sent to the Commons for their concurrence.

The House then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 24th April, 1872.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

COPYRIGHT.

Hon. Mr. RYAN presented a petition in reference to Copyright from the Dominion Board of Trade, and again called attention of the Government to the subject.

POSTAL STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH WEST INDIES.

On the presentation of a petition by Hon. Mr. DICKEY in reference to direct Steam Communication between Canada and West Indies and Brazil.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL stated that there was a prospect of that communication being afforded at no distant date; for favorable propositions were now under the consideration of the Government—of course he could not say whether they would be accepted or not—who were very desirous of securing the communications in question.

Hon. Mr. RYAN—With the Foreign or British West Indies?

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—It was hoped that it would be arranged that the proposition would extend to the British as well as Foreign West Indies.

PRINTING.

Hon. Mr. SANBORN presented report Joint Committee on Printing, approving of the action of Mr. Hartney in reference

to the printing of Mr. Dawson's report. Report to be considered on Monday.

NAVIGATION OF ST. LAWRENCE.

Hon. Mr. LEFELLIER DE ST. JUST asked whether it is the intention of the Government to provide effectually for the protection of the navigation of the St. Lawrence, either by stationing tug boats of the necessary tonnage and power to relieve, and help to save vessels, and the crews of vessels leaving the Ports of Montreal and Quebec annually, during the last days of the season of navigation, or by encouraging Companies for that purpose.

Whether it is the intention of the Government to grant rewards to those residents on the South Shore of the St. Lawrence, in the Counties of L'Islet and Kamouraska, who, at the risk of their lives, succeeded in saving the crews of vessels abandoned in the midst of the ice during the severe cold of last autumn,

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL replied that it was not the intention of the Government to station tug-boats at any particular points for the purpose of relieving vessels. The Government laid it down as a principle of action not to interfere with the enterprise of private companies when they were equal to the performance of the service. The Quebec Tug Boat Company was efficiently conducted, he understood from members of the mercantile community. Only when the services of such companies could not be obtained, and life and property were in peril, were the Government justified to step in. Indeed, the Government had no boats which could be detailed for such a service. The *Druid* was unfit, while the *Napoleon* was indispensable for the performance of the remote Light House Service. With respect to the latter part of the first question the Government had always done its best to assist said vessels. With reference to the second question there was a sum of money put in the Estimates last year as a reward for those who had made themselves conspicuous for saving life and property. Applications were now under the purview of the department in relation to the heroism of the habitants of L'Islet and Kamouraska, and they would receive that attention to which they were entitled.

FISHERIES.

Hon. Mr. SANBORN gave notice of an enquiry with reference to expenses incurred last session by British and Canadian Governments in protecting the Fisheries. The House then adjourned.