

ther observations for the production of the papers.

The motion was then put and carried, when it was ordered that such members of the House as are members of the Privy Council do wait on His Excellency the Governor General and present the address.

On the motion of Hon. Mr HAMILTON seconded by the Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just, the House adjourned until Monday.

MONDAY, 20th April, 1874.

The House met at half-past seven.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE, Speaker, in the chair.

After routine,—

Hon. Mr. MILLER moved, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that the name of Hon. Mr. Penny be added to the Committee on Contingencies.—Carried.

#### THE ASSINIBOINE.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD, whose remarks were imperfectly heard, called attention to the importance of improving the water communication of the North West. He spoke of the practicability of rendering the Assiniboine and affluents navigable for boats of a considerable tonnage, for 800 miles west of Fort Garry, and thence to near the Rocky Mountains. He also read notes given him by persons competent to speak on the subject, all confirmatory of this view, and concluded by putting the questions of which he had given notice :

Does the Government intend to take the necessary steps to ascertain the possibility of rendering the river Assiniboine navigable, by leading into it the waters of Lake Manitoba by means of a canal between the two at the place where they are nearest to each other.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the Government have not yet decided upon the scheme that probably will be submitted for the improvement of the Northwest Rivers, and until they have finally made up their minds as to the true policy in the interest of the public, it would be premature for me to promise any enterprise in the direction the honorable gentleman indicates.

#### STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN, in submitting his motion on this subject, was understood to speak of the engagements entered into by Canada, with reference to the putting of a

steamer on the route between Nova Scotia and the Island. It was contemplated that this year at all events this service would be established. He believed the Government had done all in their power in the matter. But the question with him and others was—did the advertisements calling for a boat, mention the winter service required? He thought the best boat for this purpose was one that could break through the ice, but experienced persons stated that one of that kind was not sufficient, that the boat must go on the top of the ice; and if the Government secured a vessel according to the terms of the advertisement they might spend a sum of money for a service which afterwards might not be performed, by reason of the unfitness of the steamer: It was an important matter to the Islanders, who were comparatively isolated four to six months of the year. At all events, the attempt to establish this service should be made in an intelligent manner, in order to the acquisition of a suitable boat, and the avoidance of fruitless outlay and complaint. Tenders should be asked for a steamer that could perform two services—summer as well as winter—thus, in summer she might attend to the lighthouses in the Gulf. The vessel called for in the advertisement would not, he believed, be able to do the work desired, which was the reason why he asked for the submission of the advertisement to the House, that the matter might be properly discussed. He hoped that the Secretary of State would not now send it to the public press, but give the House a copy first, so that the question might be discussed on its merits. He moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Vidal, that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House a copy of the advertisement for the Winter Steamer to Prince Edward Island as well as a copy of all tenders received for said service.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the Government had called for tenders for the performance of this service, and the lowest was accepted. The party was notified to complete his security. But the securities had not been put in, nor all the contracts signed. Till that was done, it would be premature to bring down the tenders. Government had no objection in the meantime to the advertisement coming down. The honorable gentleman might make some observations on it then. Possibly in a few days the Government might have the opportunity of deciding on the question. If so, the