

THE SENATE

Thursday, November 21, 1867

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

After routine,

CANAL BETWEEN THE GULF AND BAY OF FUNDY

Hon. Mr. Dickey inquired whether the Executive Government intended to propose a measure for opening water communication by Canal between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy?

The honourable member would take occasion to say that this project was of the greatest possible importance to the trade of the country, and if accomplished would save not less than one dollar per ton on the freight of coal to Boston, besides resulting in great general benefit to other interests.

Hon. Mr. Campbell said the Government were fully aware of the importance of the subject, but were not in possession at present of sufficient information to warrant their undertaking such a work. The honourable member might be sure, however, that it would receive the consideration of the Government.

FISHERY BOUNTIES

Hon. Mr. Locke inquired whether it was the intention of the Government to extend the system of bounties to fishermen throughout the Dominion, and if so, at what time such system was to come into operation, and further in what manner such bounty (if granted) is to be apportioned, whether on the tonnage engaged in the Fisheries, or on the quantities of fish caught?

In putting the inquiry the honourable member stated that the fishermen commenced in March to make preparations for their season's business, and it was therefore important, they should be informed as early as possible of the intention of the Government in these respects, so as to enable them to shape their course prudently. The honourable member was proceeding, when

Hon. Mr. Sanborn rose to a question of order, and said that according to the rules of the House, which had been accepted upon the opening of Parliament, honourable members putting questions to the Government were expected to confine themselves strictly to the letter of such questions, unless an explanation were found to be needed.

A Constitutional debate followed in which the past practice of the Legislative Councils of the several Provinces, as also of the Imperial Parliament was referred to. Several authorities were quoted, and the result of the discussion seemed to be a general conviction that it would be inconvenient to allow of prefaces to questions or reasons, and opinions after stating them, as these would inevitably lead to the statement of counter opinions by other members, and to long debates. The Chair being mentioned the Speaker gave his opinion on the subject in the sense above stated.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell then replied to the questions to the effect that the statements he had made on a previous occasion, supplied, as he conceived, a full answer to the inquiries of the honourable member. He had then stated that as soon as possible after the recess he would bring up a measure to regulate the fisheries of the whole Dominion, in which the subject of bounties, and several other important interests, would be dealt with. He thought that on that occasion the House had been satisfied with his explanations, and with the impossibility there was of his having the varied information necessary to enable him to deal with the matter sooner. He could only reiterate his assurance of introducing the measure in the first days of the second part of the Session.

GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENT WITH THE BANK OF MONTREAL

Hon. Mr. Anderson inquired—

1st.—Under what terms are the notes of the Dominion issued by the Bank of Montreal?

Hon. Mr. Kenny replied that according to the provisions of the Act for the issue of Provincial notes the Bank of Montreal was entitled to receive 5 per cent on the actual amount of its circulation withdrawn, as compensation for surrendering its power to issue notes, the circulation being established by Returns dated 30th April, 1866.

2nd. Question—Is a Commission allowed to the Bank, if so at what rate per annum?

Answer—The Bank receives a Commission of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent every three months upon the average amount of notes in circulation, as compensation for the issue and redemption thereof.

3rd. Question—Will the Government be willing to allow the Banks of the Maritime Provinces to issue Dominion notes on the same terms as those extended to the Bank of Montreal?