

April 25, 1872

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 25, 1872

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE BUSINESS

A number of petitions were presented and read.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections Report relative to the Marquette (Manitoba) election was read. It was the opinion of the Committee that, there being an equal number of votes, both Mr. Angus C. McKay and Mr. James S. Lynch should have been returned as elected. The Committee had adjourned until the morrow.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD submitted further papers respecting the Fisheries question and the appointment of the Joint High Commission. He also stated that the Report on the Fisheries was of such a nature that it could not be submitted without prejudice to the public service. The Government extremely regretted that they could not bring down the papers; but in doing so there might be cause of embarrassment between the Imperial and Dominion Governments, which he (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) should regret.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER submitted the report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Peel) moved that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery be ordered to attend at the Bar of the House to make, in accordance with the suggestion of the Committee, the election return of Marquette (Manitoba) a double return.

[Mr. Lynch momentarily took his seat and withdrew.]

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QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Mr. RYAN (Montreal West): Whether the Government has taken any steps to have the Imperial Copyright Act repealed; if not, whether they intend to take such action as to have the same repealed, as it bears most unjustly upon the inhabitants of the Dominion?

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS: The Government had strongly remonstrated against the Imperial Copyright Act, but had not taken any steps to obtain its repeal, although the most active measures, otherwise, had been taken to obtain a change. Lord Macaulay, sensible of the injustice of the act towards the colonies, had urged its repeal and there were hopes that we should ultimately succeed.

Hon. Mr. McKEAGNEY: Whether it be the intention of Government to make provision in the Estimates for cutting a canal through the portage which separates the waters of the East Bay, Bras d'Or Lake from those of Sydney Harbor, or to take any steps for the purpose of accomplishing said work, which taken in connection with St. Peter's Canal would be of vast importance to trade and navigation generally?

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said that the engineer appointed to examine the St. Peter's Canal would give his attention to this matter also.

Hon. Mr. McKEAGNEY: Whether it is the intention of Government to make provision for the construction of a Marine Hospital at the port of Sydney, Cape Breton, now so urgently required by the increasing trade and shipping in that locality?

Hon. Mr. TUPPER: The Government had provided in the Estimates for a Marine Hospital at Sydney, Cape Breton.

Hon. Mr. McKEAGNEY: Whether it be the intention of the Government to make provision in the Estimates for the construction of a Lighthouse at Gabarus Harbour, Cape Breton, now so much required for the purpose of protecting the large interest engaged in navigation and shipping along the southern coast of Cape Breton?

Hon. Mr. TUPPER: It is not the intention of the Government to do so.

Mr. FOURNIER: Whether it is the intention of the Government to complete the lot of land necessary for the construction of the Post Office now in course of erection in Quebec, by purchasing from the Hon. Henry Black, his property which adjoins the said Post Office?

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN: The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. STEPHENSON: Whether it is the intention of the Government in view of the increased revenue of the Dominion, to introduce a measure to totally abolish or further reduce the rates of postage on newspapers printed and circulated within the Dominion of Canada?