

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Aikins*, it was *Ordered*, That the House do take into consideration the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General on Monday next.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Campbell*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Aikins*, it was *Ordered*, That all the Members present during this Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of this House and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in this House, when and as often as they please.

The Honorable Mr. *Campbell* informed the House that he had a Message from His Excellency the Governor General under his sign manual, which His Excellency had commanded him to deliver to this House.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows:—

DUFFERIN.

The Governor General transmits for the information of the Senate and House of Commons the accompanying papers relative to the disallowance of the Act, 36 Victoria, Chap. 1, intituled "An Act to provide for the Examination of Witnesses on Oath, by Committees of the Senate and House of Commons, in certain cases." Government House, Ottawa, 23rd October, 1873.

[COPY.]

No. 116.]

"CANADA, May 3rd, 1873.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a certified copy of a Bill entitled, "A Bill to provide for the Examination of Witnesses on Oath by Committees of the Senate and House of Commons in certain cases," which has passed both Houses of the Canadian Parliament, and to which I have this day given my assent.

The introduction of this Bill into the House of Commons arose out of the following circumstance:—

On the 2nd April, the Hon. *Lucius Seth Huntington*, Member for Shefford, in the Province of Quebec, made the following motion:—

"Hon. Mr. *Huntington* moved that Mr. *Huntington*, a member of this House, having stated in his place, that he is credibly informed and believes that he can establish by satisfactory evidence,—

"That in anticipation of the Legislation of last Session, as to the Pacific Railway, an agreement was made between Sir *Hugh Allan*, acting for himself, and certain other Canadian promoters, and *G. W. McMullen*, acting for certain United States Capitalists, whereby the latter agreed to furnish all the funds necessary for the construction of the contemplated Railway, and to give the former a certain per centage of interest, in consideration of their interest and position, the scheme agreed on being ostensibly that of a Canadian Company with Sir *Hugh Allan* at its head,—

"That the Government were aware that negotiations were pending between these parties,—

"That subsequently, an understanding was come to between the Government and Sir *Hugh Allan* and Mr. *Abbott*, M.P.,—that Sir *Hugh Allan* and his friends should advance a large sum of money for the purpose of aiding the elections of Ministers and their supporters at the ensuing General Election,—and that he and his friends should receive the contract for the construction of the Railway,—

"That accordingly Sir *Hugh Allan* did advance a large sum of money for the