

## NON-CONTENTS :

Hon. Messrs.

Bull,	McLelan ( <i>Londonderry</i> )
Dickey,	McMaster,
Flint,	Macdonald,
Grant,	Macfarlane,
Haythorne,	Penny,
Hope,	Simpson,
Kaulbach,	Stevens,
Leonard,	Wark.—17.
Lewin,	

The Bill was then read the third time and passed.

## CREDIT FONCIER OF THE DOMINION BILL.

## THIRD READING.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN, from the Committee on Banking and Commerce, reported Bill (32) "An Act to incorporate the Credit Foncier of the Dominion of Canada," without amendment.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read the third time and passed.

## THE BEVERIDGE AND TIBBITS' CLAIM.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED.

Hon. Mr. READ moved the adoption of the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances of a debt alleged to devolve upon the Dominion Government by the British North America Act, and said to be now due to the Hon. Benjamin Beveridge, James Tibbits, and others, but the payment of which is withheld for some cause unknown. He said: The Committee have thoroughly examined this matter, and have taken a great deal of pains to arrive at a correct conclusion. The report, which appears in the minutes, is very voluminous. The Committee were unanimous in arriving at this conclusion:—

"Your Committee, therefore, after careful examination of the whole question, have the honor to report:

"1st. That a balance of £5,404 11s. 2d., or \$21,618.25, was due by New Brunswick to Canada on the 12th November, 1856.

"2nd. That the said balance has been regularly ceded, transferred and assigned to the claimants by the late Province of Canada, viz., the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, to indemnify them and settle the claims that they held against Canada."

*Hon. Mr. Allan.*

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL—

When this Committee was granted by the House I took occasion to say that the Government of the Dominion could not be bound by any decision at which they might arrive, because if the debt came to be paid it would have to be charged against the Government of New Brunswick, and that Government was not a consenting party to the reference. I can only repeat that now. I cannot see what object there can be in asking the Senate to adopt the report under the circumstances. It always seems objectionable, and it is not dignified, to ask the House to adopt a report which cannot be attended with any action. At the same time I do not oppose the motion. I would suggest to my hon. friend who has charge of the matter that it would perhaps be more in the interest of the claimants not to ask the House to adopt the report. The claim cannot be paid without the assent of New Brunswick, and it does not seem to me that the course which is now pursued is likely to conciliate New Brunswick in any way. I think it would be much better to leave the matter in the hands of the Government.

Hon. Mr. READ—In asking the House to adopt the report I have a precedent to guide me. Some years ago I was appointed chairman of a Committee of a somewhat similar nature to this. A report was brought in recommending the Government to pay a certain amount of money. The report was adopted and the Government did pay the money.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I protesting.

Hon. Mr. READ—I have no doubt of that. That is a precedent which I hope the House will follow. The adoption of the report cannot force the Government to settle the claim, but it will show that the House, after careful consideration of the matter, are satisfied that if they do not pay it they should.

Hon. Mr. TRUDEL—As a member of the Committee I think it is my duty to insist upon the adoption of this report. This matter has been thoroughly investigated, and I may say that there is nobody who will read the official documents which are printed in the minutes who