

their arrival they had shown themselves a useful and industrious people. Their presence had sensibly affected the trade of Winnipeg, largely increasing the business of the merchants. The Menonites had shown themselves to be a well conducted people. He had not heard of a single case of disorder among them since they came to the country. As to their objection to bearing arms, he trusted there would never be any necessity for it, but if it should come, they lived on the frontier and would be likely to help to defend themselves. No better people had been brought into the country and no settlers could be more desirable.

The item was concurred in.

#### THE PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Last year before the House adjourned the Government asked authority to place that portion of the Pacific Railroad extending from Rat Portage to Cross Lake, under contract. We expected at that time the re-survey would be completed in time to do so during the season. It took the whole summer to accomplish that and we are not yet in a position to invite tenders. I have again to ask the House for the authority we obtained last year. We have had the contract ratified from Fort William to the neighborhood of Shebandowan, a distance of 45 miles. As I said a few nights ago in the House, we diverge from that line some 23 or 24 miles from Fort William, so as to reach the North-West Angle of Lac des Mille Lacs, from which we proceed in a straight direction, and we have the survey completed to Rat Portage. I want authority to place that portion under contract. We offered for the contractors a distance equivalent to that under the former contract in the new line chosen from the point of departure on the line from Shebandowan. This they have declined, as they have a right to do, and we want authority to accomplish this. I give notice of the following motion:—  
 “That the Government be authorized  
 “to enter into contracts during the  
 “Recess with parties sending in the  
 “lowest available tenders for the works  
 “of construction of the following portions of the Canada Pacific Railway,

Mr. SMITH.

“viz: From Fort William westward  
 “towards Lac de Mille Lac and the  
 “crossing of Steel River from Rat  
 “Portage to Cross Lake.”

Mr. CURRIER—Is that intended to make an unbroken line, or is any portion of the route to be by water?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—This is the main line. It will be all rail when it is built, but it will pass by the lake in the meantime, but will not go an inch off the main line. We do not propose to place any under contract but these two ends in the meantime, because we hope to have an arrangement made a year hence that we can get contractors to take the line.

The House adjourned at 10.40 p. m.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 11, 1876.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Two o'clock.

#### FEEES ON PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. BLAIN moved that the fees on the Bill to incorporate the United Empire Loan Company be refunded, it having been withdrawn in consequence of the rough handling it had received in the Senate.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said he would not oppose the motion, but he did not approve of the principle of returning fees for Private Bills withdrawn under such circumstances.

Mr. YOUNG said it was asserted that many persons applied for charters of this kind for speculative purposes merely. He thought care should be taken to prevent this, and to see that they were not granted to men of straw.

Mr. PLUMB thought care should be exercised to see that those charters did not fall into the hands of parties who merely sold them for what they would bring. He hoped the suggestion of the hon. member for Chateauguay, to employ an expert to look through those Bills and put them in proper shape, would be adopted.

Mr. BLAIN held it was the duty of the House to pay no regard to any man that applied for a charter, but to grant every application that was