

*Ordered*, That the Clerk do carry the Bill to the Senate, and desire their concurrence.

The Order of the Day being read, for the second reading of the Bill to extend the powers of the *Ontario* Savings and Investment Society;

The Bill was accordingly read a second time; and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Mr. *Blain* moved, seconded by Mr. *Metcalf*, and the Question being proposed, That inasmuch as the existing means of transportation to the sea-board for the enormous surplus products of the vast regions having their drainage into the Great Lakes, and the carriage to those regions of the required manufactures of the East are entirely inadequate to the demands of the Trade, and therefore increased facilities for these purposes are indispensable, and it appearing that the Government of the *United States*, in order to meet these requirements, have appointed a Committee to consider the whole question of cheap and speedy transportation, and the Committee are now pursuing their labors; and inasmuch as by the terms on which the British North American Provinces were agreed to be confederated, the Dominion Government is pledged and in duty bound to improve the navigation of the *St. Lawrence* River, and enlarge the canals thereon so as to admit vessels of greater capacity to pass between Lake *Ontario* and Tide Waters, and it appearing that the construction of the projected *Huron* and *Ontario* Ship Canal between Lake *Ontario* and the *Georgian Bay*, would greatly shorten the distance by water from West to East, and otherwise afford a better and safer channel of communication, a Committee of seven Members of this House, with power to call for persons and papers, be appointed to consider the matters above referred to, and to report on the feasibility of the scheme for the construction of the projected *Huron* and *Ontario* Ship Canal, and also on some uniform system whereby vessels of greater dimensions than those in present use, and of sufficient carrying capacity for the present and probable increased trade might pass from Tide Water to the head of the great Lakes, and that it be resolved; That it is expedient and would tend to promote the interests of the Dominion that Commissioners should be appointed to confer with the *United States* Transportation Committee and discuss with it the feasibility of the scheme for the construction of the projected *Huron* and *Ontario* Ship Canal and the proposed improved uniform water communication between the Upper Lakes and Tide Water required to meet the present and prospective trade, and to report the results to this House and any proposed aid that might be offered by the *United States* or any State thereof in furtherance of the proposed works or any of them.

And Objection being taken by Mr. *Thompson*, Member for the Electoral District of *Haldimand*, That the Motion was not in order, inasmuch as it involved an expenditure of Public Money, in recommending the appointment of certain Commissioners;

Mr. Speaker decided, That the Motion was an abstract proposition, such as could be regularly proposed to the House by a Private Member. If it should pass, it would not necessarily bind the House in any way; and therefore overruled the Objection.

And the Question being again proposed; and a Debate arising thereupon: The said Motion was, with leave of the House, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House, That a Message had been brought from the Senate by their Clerk, as followeth:—

The Senate have passed the Bill, intituled: "An Act to incorporate the *Niagara Grand Island* Bridge Company," without any amendment.

Also, The Senate have passed a Bill, intituled: "An Act to incorporate the *Stadacona* Fire and Life Insurance Company," to which they desire the concurrence of this House.

And also, The Senate have passed a Bill, intituled: "An Act to amend the Act to incorporate the *Imperial Bank*," to which they desire the concurrence of this House.