

power to tax every lot and sell it if such tax was not paid; such were the outlines of this matter, and, on behalf of himself and colleague, he thanked the council for the very flattering address received as it proved they had at least done their duty by the country.

Hon. Mr. Macdougall said he would not detain the Council; Sir G. E. Cartier had fully stated every circumstance which had occurred and the motive which governed all their actions while in England, but, during a recent trip West, he found the people generally well pleased at the success of the mission so far, and he believed a large immigration of our young men from the East and West would be directed to this vast country instead of to the United States, as they preferred British institutions and the security they gave to any other. As an Ottawa question it was decisive on one point, and that was fixing the Seat of Government by so firm an anchor that no force could weigh it. As the Council had taken so fair a view of their proceedings he was bound to believe they had done the State some service.

The President of the Board of Trade Alex. Workman, Esq., then presented the members of the Council, and the proceedings terminated.

The Council of the Board of Trade is a thoroughly independent body, not likely to be swayed by political feeling of any kind, and what enhances the value of this address is the fact that every item connected with the transfer of the Hudson's Bay territory has been debated by them for the last month, and they came to the conclusion of presenting an address because they believed the transaction was of the greatest possible benefit to this country and had been negotiated on a fair commercial basis. It certainly speaks highly for the statesmanship of the negotiators, and it could be no ordinary matter that would bring those gentlemen composing the Council of the Board of Trade from their legitimate business—but they were fully aware of the importance of this matter and took the earliest and best method of evincing their opinions.

#### PARLIAMENTARY.

On Monday the principal matter of interest that came under consideration was the presentation, by Mr. Alonzo Wright, of petitions praying for the construction of the Ottawa and French River Canal. Mr. McKenzie objected to the reading of the petitions. After some questions about the Intercolonial Railway and the Commissioners the House adjourned.

Tuesday—The subject of the petitions presented by Mr. Alonzo Wright again came under discussion, and after many pros and cons the Speaker ruled that they were in order and consequently they were received and referred to Committee. The correspondence in relation to the Intercolonial Railway was received from His Excellency.

The Hon. Mr. Rose moved that the speech from the Throne be taken into consideration, also the usual motion that supplies be granted to Her Majesty, and that the same be taken up on Friday. It was elicited from the Minister of Finance that the Government had no intention to ask Parliament for further power to deal with the silver question.

Wednesday—In the Senate the copyright law was discussed, and motion was carried praying His Excellency that all papers relating to the subject might be laid before the House.

In the Commons Mr. McConkey gave notice of introduction of Bill to provide that the first day of July be a legal holiday.

Mr. Mills gave notice of Bill to provide that members of the several Local Legislatures shall be ineligible to sit and vote in the Commons of Canada.

Sir John A. Macdonald read the reply of His Excellency to the address of the House.

Hon. Mr. GALT gave notice of motion for the production of correspondence between the United States and Canada relative to the troubles on the frontier in 1866. He explained that his object in making the motion was to call attention to the extraordinary motion made by Senator Chandler in the United States Congress—referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations—which called upon the British Government to surrender the whole of British North America as compensation for damages effected by the "Alabama" and other Confederate cruisers. He did not, of course, intend at that stage to enter fully into the matter, but when it again came before the House he should take it up. (Cheers.)

A message was received from His Excellency with despatch relating to terms upon which Newfoundland would enter the Union.

Among the questions put to the ministry by Members were the following:

Mr. KEELER—Whether it is the intention of the Government to provide for the construction of the Murray Canal in the appropriations to be made during the present session of Parliament?

Hon. Mr. Rose said that the state of the Finances would not permit appropriations for the purpose.

Mr. BECHAM—Whether it is too late to give any information as to approaching negotiations of a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States?

Hon. Mr. Rose said that there was no information to give on the subject.

Mr. Masson (Soulanges)—Whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce during the present Session a measure to limit the rate of interest throughout the whole Dominion?

Hon. Mr. Rose said that this was one of the matters under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Masson (Soulanges)—Whether it is the intention of the Government to recommend His Excellency the Governor General to exercise the Royal Prerogative of mercy in favor of the Reverend Mr. McMahon and other Fenian prisoners now confined in the Penitentiary or other prisons in the Dominion?

Sir John A. Macdonald said it was not the intention of His Excellency to give any information on the subject.

After several other questions relative to the Great Western Railway and the Civil Service the House adjourned.

Thursday—In the Senate the Hon. JAS. SKEAD presented two petitions praying for the construction of the Ottawa Ship Canal. The Hon. Mr. Ross presented a petition praying for the construction of the Georgian Bay Canal.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU moved for an address to His Excellency the Governor General praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House copies of:—

1st All papers and documents relating to the accusation, trial and condemnation of Rev. John McMahon, a Roman Catholic Priest, after the invasion of the Fenians in the County of Welland, in the Province of Ontario, on the 2nd day of June, 1866.

2nd. All petitions and memorials praying for the pardon of the said Rev. John McMahon or the commutation of his sentence.

3rd. Any notes or reports of the Judge who presided at the trial of the said Rev. John McMahon, addressed to the Governor in Council, and all Reports of Council or Orders in Council on the above subject.

The honorable gentleman spoke at some length on the motion in French.

Hon. Mr. RYAN said he had seconded the motion because his honorable friend, the mover, had requested him to do so. He was sure the Government would have no objection to bring down the papers, but he must state that he could not agree with some remarks made by the mover of the resolution reflecting on the administration of Justice in Upper Canada. The Government had had the matter brought under their notice and after the attention they had given it without taking action he was sure they must have grounds for detaining the reverend gentleman.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said that the Government would bring down all papers bearing on the subject except such as were of a confidential nature. Among this class might be counted the notes of the Judges on the occasion. He could not say that they would be brought down. He must express his dissent from the remarks made by the honorable mover of the resolution. It was true that there had been a clergyman and a priest taken prisoners on the occasion, and both had been tried. If the clergyman had been acquitted and the priest convicted, it was because the jury saw so fit to deal with the evidence laid before them. He thought nothing could be said contravening the impartial administration of justice in Ontario.

In the Commons a number of petitions were presented, and among the number, one by Mr. Harrison, signed by 2,000 inhabitants of Ontario, praying for the construction of the Georgian Bay Canal.

#### QUESTIONS.

Mr. YOUNG—Whether the report extensively circulated throughout the United States be true, that the Government had employed any person or persons to act on its behalf to endeavor to secure the passage of a new Reciprocity Treaty through Congress?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the report was not true; there were no persons so employed.

Mr. KEELER—Whether it is the intention of the Government to constitute Dominion Day a legal holiday?