

May 6, 1874

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 6, 1874

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3.10 p.m.

Prayers

PETITIONS PRESENTED

Several petitions were presented praying for a prohibitory liquor law.

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REPORTS

The following reports were presented:—

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—The fourth report of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, reporting several bills.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK—The second report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills.

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BILLS INTRODUCED

The following Bills were introduced:—

By **Mr. DONAHUE**—To incorporate the St. John's (Quebec) Board of Trade.

By **Mr. MOSS**—To extend the powers of the Canada Permanent Building and Savings Society.

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RETURNS

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE presented a return of the Order in Council making appointments since August last; also a return showing the population and amount of imports for Ingonish South, Cape Breton, for the past year.

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MILITIA EXPENDITURE

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT presented a return of the Militia expenditure up to the 31st March, 1874.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA MAIL SERVICE

Mr. De COSMOS asked why the Government ordered that no bullion or treasure should be sent by mail from Cariboo to Victoria, and vice versa; was Government in possession of any information at the time such order was made showing the decrease such order would make in the revenue of the Postal Department?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry) replied in a voice that was almost inaudible in the gallery. He was understood to say that it had become dangerous, in the interest of the Department, to send bullion by that means. It involved too much expense because of the necessity of additional conveyances. The consequent decrease in the revenue was not so much taken into consideration as the safety of the carrying of the mails.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA PARCEL POST

Mr. De COSMOS enquired why the parcel post between Victoria and Cariboo and way stations and vice versa was suspended in 1873-1874; was there any provision in the contracts for carrying the mails between those points that authorized the postal department to stop the parcel post?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry) said in reply to the first portion of the question that it was done in the interests of postal service; but the latter portion of his reply was perfectly inaudible.

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FEDERATION OF THE COLONIES

Mr. De COSMOS said he had once or twice postponed the motion he had given notice of, that a respectful Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General praying that he may be pleased to open negotiations with the Imperial Government for the purpose of learning on what conditions the Dominion of Canada might be admitted to a full and complete share in all the national rights, powers, privileges, and responsibilities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and that the result of such negotiations be communicated to Parliament early in the next session.

He had now to say, in view of the expression of opinion by the Prime Minister the other evening with regard to the commencement of the Pacific Railway, that he considered this would be an inopportune moment for him to bring this matter forward. It was evident that the Government were not working in harmony under the Federal principle. Therefore he deemed it an inopportune moment to ask the Imperial Government to enlarge a principle which, in our limited sphere had, as he had said, not worked satisfactorily. He therefore begged to withdraw his motion for the present.

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NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOOL LAW

Mr. COSTIGAN moved for an address to Her Majesty, representing "That it is essential to the peace and prosperity of the Dominion of Canada that the several religions therein prevailing should be followed in perfect harmony by those professing them, in