

May 22, 1874

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, May 22, 1874

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers

PETITIONS

Messrs. **ST-JEAN**, **BOWMAN** and **RICHARD** presented petitions in favour of a prohibitory liquor law.

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REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex West) presented the report of the Committee on Prohibition.

Hon. Mr. FOURNIER presented the report of the Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines recommending an increase of the fee on Private Bills to \$200.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON presented the eleventh report of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, containing a like recommendation.

Mr. YOUNG presented the first, second and third reports of the Committee on Public Accounts, with the evidence taken by the sub-Committee on the Intercolonial Railway and other papers. The reports also directed attention to the department of the Queen's Printer, to enquire whether the number of employees could not be reduced.

Mr. GEOFFRION presented the report of the Committee on the difficulties in the Northwest, stating that they had held thirty-seven sittings and examined twenty-one witnesses. They submitted the evidence taken before them, and stated that they could not complete the examination because several important witnesses were absent in Europe and in the Northwest and could not be brought before the Committee.

The Committee had also enquired into the subject whether or not a direct or implied promise of amnesty had been made. The Committee had examined a number of witnesses, and had examined many important documents but had not as yet found any evidence of a distinct promise of amnesty; they concluded by leaving it to the House whether the proceedings of the Committee should terminate or be continued until the whole matter is thoroughly sifted.

Mr. PÂQUET presented the report of the Committee on Immigration and Colonization.

Hon. Mr. ROBITAILLE presented the report of the Committee on the most direct route to Europe.

MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Banking and Commerce Committee, he would move, seconded by **Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE**, that the rule of the House be amended to change the fee for private bills from \$100 to \$200.—Carried.

Mr. MILLS moved that the rule with reference to printing in the Province of Manitoba be amended so that the printing in that Province may be in French as well as in English.—Carried.

Mr. YOUNG moved that the second report of the Public Accounts Committee, with the evidence, papers, and letters in relation to the Dawson route, be published for the use of members.

After some discussion as to whether the motion was in order,

Mr. YOUNG altered the motion so that it was merely a reference to the Printing Committee.

It was then carried.

Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland) moved that the fees on the Bill to incorporate the Saint John Bridge and Railway Company be refunded less the expense of printing.—Carried.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved that notices in the *Official Gazette* and local papers as to the Province of New Brunswick shall be printed in the English and French languages.

After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

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RETURNS

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE brought down returns of reports of the Commissioners on the causes of the high spring floods on the St. Lawrence; correspondence between the Government and Edward Farrer, late one of the editors of *The Mail*, and now an emigrant agent in Ireland; and reports in reference to the cost of wood and iron for bridges on the Intercolonial Railroad.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry) brought down a return, the nature of which could not be understood in the gallery, the hon. gentleman's remarks being inaudible.

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EXPIRING LAWS

Mr. PRÉVOST introduced a Bill to continue for a limited time the Acts therein mentioned.

The Bill was read first and second times.