

On motion of Mr. *MacKay* (*Cape Breton*), seconded by Mr. *Church*,
Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying His Excellency to cause to be laid before this House, copies of all correspondence and petitions in the hands of the Government respecting the use of Trawls by Foreigners off the coasts of *Nova Scotia*.

Ordered, That the said Address be presented to His Excellency by such Members of this House as are of the Queen's Privy Council.

Sir *Albert J. Smith*, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, presented,—Return to an Address to His Excellency, dated 24th April, 1878, for copies of all correspondence and Petitions in the hands of the Government, respecting the use of Trawls or Bultows by Foreigners, off the coasts of *Nova Scotia*. (*Sessional Papers*, No. 86.)

On motion of Mr. *McDonald* (*Cape Breton*), seconded by Mr. *Bowell*,
Ordered, That there be laid before this House, a Return of Expenditure in detail, of money expended on the Breakwater at *Cow Bay*, for the year 1877; giving the names of all persons who performed any work on that Breakwater, stating the amount of wages paid each person per day; also the quantity of timber purchased, and the price paid for it, and to whom; also salary, commission, or wages of Superintendent of Work, and vouchers of payment.

On motion of Mr. *Langevin*, seconded by Mr. *Gibbs* (*Ontario South*),
Ordered, That there be laid before this House, a Statement shewing the names of the Valuators employed on the line of the Intercolonial Railway, in the Counties of *Temiscouata* and *Rimouski* for the purchase of lands, the amount of damages assessed; the period of time during which such Valuators were employed and the salary paid to each of them in the several cases;

Also, a list of all claims made upon the Government for damages caused subsequent to the expropriation of lands and the passing of the said Line of Railway through the said Counties, the amount allowed by the said Valuators upon each of the said claims, with the names of the persons who have accepted the amounts offered, and of those who refused the same, from the 30th June, 1876, up to this date.

Mr. *Mackenzie*, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, presented,—Return to an Address to His Excellency, dated 27th March, 1878, for copies of all correspondence between the *Hudson Bay Company* and the Dominion Government, relative to alleged losses at the *Red River Settlement*, connected with the Insurrection in 1869-70. (*Sessional Papers*, No. 97.)

The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill to amend the Law relating to Stamps on Promissory Notes and Bills of Exchange, and after some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; and Mr. *Wood* reported, That the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made amendments thereunto.

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended, be now taken in consideration.

The amendments made to the Bill were then twice read.

And the Question being proposed, That the amendments be now agreed to;

And Objection being taken to further progress with this Bill on the ground that it imposed a Tax and therefore could only be introduced by the Government and with the recommendation of the Governor General.

Mr. Speaker ruled as follows:—

“The whole question occurs to me at the present moment in this light. In the first place I may say that the 54th Clause of the *British North America Act*, 1867, has no bearing whatever, in my opinion, on the case. It relates merely to appropriations. Hon. Members in reading it over rather cursorily are led into a mistake, owing to