

May 6, 1872

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 6, 1872

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at three o'clock.

Prayers

A number of petitions were read.

Mr. MASSON (Soulanges) wanted a French version of Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald's speech, one of the best that had ever been pronounced in the House, so that it might be the more particularly appreciated by himself and other gentlemen of his origin. He looked upon it as a matter of some importance. He wanted to know as next Thursday was a holiday, whether it was intended to sit on Saturday. If not, he would go home on Thursday and return on Monday.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said that the hon. member had asked for the publication of the able speech of the leader of the Government, and he felt proud of that, but the pamphlet would have to embrace the speeches against as well as in favour of the measure, and must therefore be left to the Joint Committee on Printing. If the public mind would be in any way assisted by the more particular publication of his hon. colleague's excellent speech, the Government certainly would have no objection.

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT desired to know what steps had been taken with regard to the representation of Canada in the San Juan Boundary Question left to the decision of the Emperor of Germany.

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THE REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

Hon. Mr. BLAKE asked when the Government proposed to introduce a Bill respecting the redistribution of seats. He had more than once pointed out that there was very great necessity, that there should be a considerable interval between the introduction and its second reading.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said the Bill would be introduced as soon as possible; but he could not say on what day. He went on to say that the Government had not been idle in preparing and introducing measures and reports, and greater progress had been made than in any previous session during the same time.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the hon. gentleman had no reason to boast of placing the departmental reports at an early day before the House. They ought to have been prepared months ago. To bring down Public Accounts ten months after they were made up was certainly nothing to boast of. If ordinary diligence had been observed, they would have been brought down the first day of the session—even if the House had met at the proper time, the 1st February. It was only two days since the Pacific Railway Bill was printed. The Treaty Bill had not yet been printed. Nothing but two small Government Bills had yet been printed. They had been told by a Government organ that the session would only last six weeks; and yet one of the most important measures was not yet brought before the House. The estimates had not yet been touched, and no part of the serious work of the session had been done.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said the only measure that required preparation after the meeting of the House was that respecting the Treaty, which was the cause of the postponement of the meeting of Parliament. All the other measures might have been laid upon the table the very day after the address was passed; and it was a gross dereliction of duty on the part of the Government that the measure founded on the Census had not yet been introduced.

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FRANKING AND TELEGRAPHING

Mr. THOMPSON (Haldimand) desired to know whether it was the intention to bring down the return about the franking privileges concerning which he moved last session.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER: In a few days; the matter had been overlooked.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER submitted a return relative to the surplus over debts of the late Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. JONES (Leeds North and Grenville North) asked for information concerning the North West boundary of Ontario and was informed that the matter was under the consideration and investigation of the Government.

Mr. FORTIER enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session, a general measure for the regulation and inspection of fish.