

Mr. Speaker laid before the House,—General Statements and Returns of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in the District of *Quebec* and *Gaspé*, for the year 1870, (*Sessional Papers*, No. 26).

The following Petitions were severally brought up, and laid on the Table:—

By the Honorable Mr. *Tilley*,—The Petition of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of *Saint John*, Province of *New Brunswick*.

By Mr. *Shanley*,—The Petition of the *Vaudreuil* Railway Company.

Pursuant to the Order of the Day the following Petitions were read:—

Of *Maxime Beaupré*, Merchant of the Parish of *St. Michel d'Yamaska*; praying for certain amendments to the Insolvent Act of 1869.

Of *Charles Creed*, M.D., and others of *Pugwash*, Province of *Nova Scotia*; of *William Footner*, and others, of the City of *Montreal*; and of *W. R. Hibbard*, and others, of the City of *Montreal*; severally praying for the passing of an Act granting Letters Patent to the Inventor or first Introducer, or to Inventors alone, irrespective of nationality or residence, but in all cases requiring the establishment and continuous operation of the Invention in the Dominion.

Of *Rufus F. Black*, and others, of the District of River *Philip*, County of *Cumberland*, Province of *Nova Scotia*; praying that the Station on the Intercolonial Railroad for the said District may be placed as near as possible the point where it crosses the main road along the River *Philip*.

Of *William Weld*, of the City of *London*, Editor of the *Farmers' Advocate*; praying that packages of Seeds sent by mail, from one part of the Dominion to another, may pass at the same rate of postage as is now charged upon printed matter sent by mail in bulk.

A Motion being made and seconded, That the Petition of *Norman McQuarrie*, and others, of *Margaw*, County of *Inverness*, and its vicinity, presented on Tuesday last, praying for aid towards removing the sand bar and otherwise improving the Harbor of *Margaw* be now received;

Mr. Speaker ruled, “That this Petition cannot be received, as the granting of the “prayer thereof would involve the expenditure of Public Money.”

Ordered, That the Petition of the *Vaudreuil* Railway Company, presented this day, be now received and read.

And the said Petition was received and read; praying for the passing of an Act to remove all doubt as to the right of the said Company to construct that portion of the line of railway from *Vaudreuil* to *Ottawa*, lying between *Hawkesbury* and the City of *Ottawa*; and to suspend in their favor the Rules of the House in reference to publication of Notice.

The Honorable Sir *George E. Cartier*, from the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, presented to the House the First Report of the said Committee, which was read, as followeth:—

Your Committee have considered the Bill to incorporate the *Ontario* and *Quebec* Railway Company, and the Bill to incorporate a Company to construct a Railway from *Montreal* to *Ottawa* to be called the *Montreal* Junction and *Ottawa* City Railway Company—to each of which they have made several amendments.

Your Committee have also considered the Bill to authorize the Northern Railway Company of *Canada* to make arrangements for the leasing, using and working of the lines of railway of other Companies, and are of opinion, that as the Government hold a lien for a large amount upon the Northern Railway, the consent of the Governor should be obtained to the consideration of this Bill before any further proceedings are had thereon.

Ordered, That the 51st Rule of this House be suspended as regards a Bill to incorporate the Western Bank.