

THE SENATE

Monday, November 25, 1867

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

After routine,

The Hon. Mr. Ryan—inquired

Whether it is the intention of Government to include in the estimates to be laid before Parliament this session amounts equal to one-half the usual grants to Charitable and Literary Institutions, so as to prevent them from suffering loss in consequence of the recent change in our form of Government, those institutions having hitherto received such grants for the years terminating December 31st, and the Local Governments only having come into existence on the 1st of July last.

The honourable gentleman, in making this inquiry, stated that he knew not exactly how, but in some way or other the grants to these institutions did not extend beyond the 31st December, 1866, and unless provisions were made in the estimates of the Dominion Government for their relief, he believed that an actual loss, upon the customary annual aid would be suffered, which he felt sure was not even contemplated by the Government of the late Province of Canada. He had been told that these institutions had actually made their arrangements upon the supposition of having a certain sum to command—a certain sum upon which they honestly depended, and which if they did not get would, in a pecuniary point of view, cause them more than ordinary inconvenience. It was indisputable that a loss, however arising, had been sustained, which, whether rightly or wrongly conjectured, seemed to have grown out of the disruption of the late Government of Canada into the Local Governments of Ontario and Quebec, and he thought that some provision in the estimates of the Government of the Dominion might be made to cover it.

Hon. Mr. Campbell considered it possible that there had been some mistake with regard to the six months' loss, and which the charitable and literary institutions supposed they had sustained. The last vote of grants to these

bodies were designed to cover everything to 1st July, 1867, and not merely a provision made to 31st December, 1866, as had been seemingly inferred. It was possible that a loss had been sustained but if it were so, it could only have occurred from the change made in the fiscal year, from 1st January to 1st July, which took place not very long before the inauguration of the Union, up to which time it assuredly had been the intention of the Government of the late Province of Canada to make full provision in grants by Parliament as aids to literary and charitable institutions, as in other matters. However, should it be fully ascertained that a loss had actually been sustained the Government of the Dominion would make representations to the Local Governments with the view, if possible, of supplying the deficiency.

As the motion for adjournment was about to be put, **Honourable Mr. Boisford** inquired of the Honourable Postmaster-General whether he had not promised to bring up the Postal Regulation Bill for a second reading to-day.

Hon. Mr. Campbell—No. The honourable gentleman will see that it is not on the paper. The second reading had been fixed for to-morrow, not to-day.

Hon. Mr. Steeves—Yes; but if he remembered rightly, the Honourable Postmaster-General had promised to have the Bill ready for the use of members some days before it should come up for a second reading, with the view of affording honourable members the fullest opportunity of examining it, and making themselves acquainted with its provisions and details before they should come up for discussion in the House.

Hon. Mr. Campbell had hoped to have been able to have done so, and with that view every exertion had been made. The translation into French had occupied more time than had been supposed, although it was now two-thirds through, and such progress had been made as would, he hoped, enable him to lay it before the House in both languages to-morrow. He believed the English copies would be circulated among members in the morning, and the French copies in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned.