

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 23rd March, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

CONSTRUCTION OF DRY DOCKS.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 108) to amend the Act to encourage the construction of dry docks by granting assistance on certain conditions to companies constructing them. He said: An Act was passed in 1882 to encourage the construction of dry docks by granting assistance under certain conditions. The intention of the amendment is to provide for the case of the city of Halifax, by adding after the words "such work," in the original Bill, the words "or in the case of a dock constructed at the port of Halifax by the city of Halifax." The law at present provides only for the case of incorporated companies, and this amendment is made to enable the city of Halifax to enter into an agreement for the construction of a dock.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

TROUBLES AT PRINCE ALBERT.

Mr. BLAKE. I desire to make enquiry respecting some information I have received. I have been informed that the half-breeds and Indians of Prince Albert, under the leadership of Louis Riel, have combined against the lawful authorities, have taken possession of the settlement and imprisoned a number of officials and others refusing to join in the movement. It is also stated that the Government has been informed of what is going on, that assistance has been asked for by the settlers, and that the demand of these half-breeds is that some recognition or action shall be taken by the Government upon a Bill of Rights which was submitted, as we were informed by the newspapers, last season. I have also been informed that the Winnipeg Field Battery has been ordered to proceed to Prince Albert.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is true that a number of half-breeds, led I believe by Louis Riel, have cut the wires and stopped communication between Qu'Appelle and the crossing of the south branch of the Saskatchewan. It is alleged that they made prisoners of several of the telegraph operators, that the wires have been cut, but one of them has been repaired. The immediate cause is not known. A telegram says it is believed that the proximate cause of the rising, was a letter stating that Riel was not a British subject. I made enquiry, and I cannot find that any such letter has proceeded from any quarter within my cognisance or the cognisance of the Government. Whether such a letter has existed or has been alleged as the cause of complaint, I do not know. There are certain questions connected with the half-breed claims which have been in process of settlement. Some of the claims are exceedingly unreasonable; others are in process of adjustment. The Bill of Rights has never been officially, or indeed in any way, promulgated so far as we know, and transmitted to the Government. The field battery has not been sent. I may say, however, that it was thought prudent last summer to have some additional force in the vicinity of Prince Albert, and we asked the Hudson's Bay Company to give us Carlton, which is a station and post of that company, the buildings of which are comfortable, and in the vicinity of the settlement of the half-breeds at Duck Lake. Captain Crozier has been there and has now 100 men at Carlton; and there is a force of ninety men within striking distance, to use a military phrase, of Carlton,

and we believe they will join Captain Crozier at Carleton to-morrow night or Wednesday morning.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. LISTER. Before the Orders of the Day are called I desire to offer a personal explanation. When the Minister of Marine was speaking the other day with respect to the road between Emerson and Winnipeg, I used these words:

"I just wish to say, in answer to the hon. Minister of Marine, that I went to Winnipeg in July, 1878, and the road was then open."

I desire to say that when I made that statement I believed it strictly correct; but I have since made enquiries and have satisfied myself that as to the time I was in Winnipeg I was in error. It was 1879, not 1878. I owe this explanation to the Minister, the House and myself.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 48) respecting the Annuity and Guarantee Fund Society of the Bank of Montreal.—(Mr. White, Cardwell).

Bill (No. 49) to incorporate the Pension Fund Society of the Bank of Montreal.—(Mr. White, Cardwell).

Bill (No. 53) respecting "La Banque du Peuple."—(Mr. Girouard.)

Bill (No. 81) respecting the Canada Co-operative Supply Association, Limited.—(Mr. Curran.)

Bill (No. 84) for the relief of Amanda Esther Davis—(from the Senate).—(Mr. White, Cardwell.) On division.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

House resolved itself into Committee on Bill (No. 60) to incorporate the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.—(Mr. White, Cardwell, for Mr. McCarthy.)

(In the Committee.)

Mr. MACKENZIE. I desire to call attention to the third section of this Bill. In my opinion it is beyond the power of this House to pass the section as it stands. I would like to hear the mover of the Bill give some explanation of this clause. I think it undertakes to confer powers that we have no right to confer.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). What clause is that?

Mr. MACKENZIE. The clause giving power to enforce discipline in churches.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). Did we not pass a similar clause in all the church Bills before? Was it not in the Methodist Church Bill?

Mr. MACKENZIE. I do not think so.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). In the Methodist Church Bill we confirmed certain regulations which had to do with the question of discipline.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Well, if we undertake to give powers to a church to enforce discipline amongst its members, we may do anything. I do not think we have any right whatever to do that. I would ask the attention of the hon. leader of the House to this point.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I would suggest that the Bill be allowed to go through Committee, and that concurrence should not be moved until Mr. McCarthy is here to defend his own Bill.

Mr. EDGAR. The hon. member in charge of the Bill stated in the Private Bills Committee that that was the usual clause which was inserted in church Bills before.