

May 20, 1874

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 20, 1874

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers

PRIVILEGE

Mr. MACKAY rose to a question of privilege. Something had appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen* as to the doings of the Committee appointed to consider the most direct route to Europe. The statement in that paper, so far as he was concerned, was utterly untrue, without any foundation—in fact, a gross slander. He did not think it necessary to say any more, but considered it due to himself to make this statement.

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STANDING ORDERS

Mr. RYMAL presented the 16th report of the Committee on Standing Orders.

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RETURNS

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE brought down copies of all accounts passed and appointments made by the Council for the Northwest Territories, and all recommendations by them to the Dominion Government in reference to Indian treaties and Indian matters in the Northwest.

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DAWSON ROAD

Mr. STEPHENSON enquired whether the Government were in possession of information respecting immigrants having been refused passage on the boats of the Collingwood and Lake Superior Line, although having tickets to Fort Garry issued by the present lessees of the Government route to Fort Garry; what was the amount of the subsidy paid per annum to the said lessees; for what period was the lease drawn and what was the security given for the faithful performance of the service.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the Government was not in possession of any information of that kind. The lessees were to receive \$75,000 per annum for maintaining the road; the lease was drawn for one year or more. The security given was security of a personal kind—the names of parties whom the Government considered to be sufficient—and they had also the security of their own constant inspection of the road.

Complaints had been made by the boats last year that passengers going to Thunder Bay on business had contrived fraudulently to

obtain tickets as for immigrants going to Manitoba, and the boats had on several occasions refused to recognize those tickets. The Government did not expect them to do otherwise, as they carried immigrants at a much lower rate than the ordinary fare. The latter was, he believed, \$9, while the boats were bound to carry Government immigrants for \$4 or \$5.

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QUEBEC CULLING OFFICE

Mr. McDOUGALL (Renfrew South), in moving concurrence in the report of the Committee on the state of the Quebec Office for culling and measuring wood, said it had been anticipated that the Government might raise some objection to the report, but it was understood that no legislation on the subject could be moved by any member of the Committee. The Committee considered that the office should be self-sustaining, that the number of cullers should be reduced, and that the supervisor should be directly responsible, without interference by the Government.

He knew that the report was open to objection on the ground that the Committee had exceeded their powers, but he hoped that the point would not be raised. Reform in this office was necessary, and could be best accomplished by adopting the suggestions of the Committee.

Hon. Mr. CAUCHON thought the report was a fair compromise of all the opinions on the subject. He hoped the Government would take some action in the matter next session.

Hon. Mr. FOURNIER said the Government, while agreeing with some of the commendations of the Committee, could not agree to concurrence in the report at this time. It was not the Government's intention to increase the number of square timber cullers. The Government would look into the matter during the recess and take action at an early day.

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew North) was gratified that the Minister of Inland Revenue had promised to take action in the matter. He was also glad that provision would be made for a superannuation fund for retired cullers.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON thought the discussion was out of order, as in England the practice of moving concurrence in the reports of Select Committees had entirely fallen into desuetude. If the report was in order it should be moved in Committee of the Whole, and considered clause by clause.

After some discussion,

Mr. CURRIER said he was glad to hear that the Government were going to take some steps in the matter.