

minister of the Gospel, to justify his being brought before the bar of the House. [Hear, hear.]

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER—What bar? The bar here, or below? [Laughter].

Hon. Mr. VIDAL—I am happy to say I know but one bar—it is the only bar I have ever seen. [Hear, hear, and laughter.]

The motion was carried.

#### FIRST READING.

Hon Mr. CAMPBELL introduced a bill entitled—in Act with regard to Corporations and Institutions incorporated without the limits of the Dominion, for the purpose of lending and investing moneys.

On motion of Hon Mr. LETELLIER, the House then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 29.

The House met to-day at three o'clock.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAILS.

Hon Mr. HOWLAN was understood to enquire when the Government intended bringing down the reply to the Address for information as to the mail service in connection with this Island, and the operations of the steamer to be employed.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT replied he would enquire. The Address passed here, was referred at once to the proper department.

#### STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Hon. Mr. CORNWALL said that at present steam communication between San Francisco, California, and British Columbia was kept up by means of a steamer which made trips to and fro once a month, in return for a Dominion subsidy of \$48,000 a year, granted for the carrying of the mails. The service was satisfactory so far as it went, but the boat was a small one, and it took her four days to cross the 800 miles between the two places. Now steamers belonging to the China Trans-Pacific Steamship Company had been put on the route between San Francisco and China. The opportunity of buying their coal cheap would probably tend to induce them to call at a British Columbia port twice a month, on the outward and the homeward trips. These steamers would, doubtless, encourage numbers in San Francisco to visit British Columbia, and with great advantage in the building up of the Province. The facilities which would also be afforded in opening up communication between it and China and

Japan, were not the least inducement to encourage those steamers to touch at British Columbia ports. In view of the ultimate destiny of that Province, which was to be the terminus of the Pacific Railway, it would be unwise to let any opportunity of establishing this steam-boat connection pass. The interests of the Dominion would thereby lose heavily. He would move, seconded by Hon. Mr. Macdonald, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House copies of all letter memorials from the Chamber of Commerce of Victoria, B. C., or other papers in connection with the offering of a subsidy or other inducements to the ships of the "China Trans-Pacific Steamship Co.," running between San Francisco, Japan and China, to call at Esquimaux, British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT had no objection to the address, a similar one to which was, he thought, moved in the other House a day or two ago. What delay would be occasioned by a steamer *en route* from San Francisco to Yokohama calling at British Columbia?

Hon. Mr. CORNWALL understood it would not be beyond a day.

#### GOVERNORSHIP OF P. E. ISLAND.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY asked whether Sir Robert Hodgson has accepted the Governorship of P. E. Island, and if so, why he has not been sworn in? The hon. gentleman said there was no Chief Justice in the Island, as Sir Robert Hodgson, the late Chief Justice, having been offered and accepted the Lieutenant-Governorship, could not fill the two positions at the same time. He (Mr. Montgomery) wished to know why, if that gentleman had accepted the Governorship, he had not been sworn in, so as to enable the Government to appoint a Chief Justice.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER—The reason why he has not been sworn in is, he has not yet accepted the office.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY—He was offered the situation some time ago, and it was time he gave an answer. If he did not soon decide to accept it, the Government should appoint some other person.

#### THE LATE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS AT MONTREAL.

Hon. Mr. PENNY said he wished to call the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact that the return respecting the Custom House at Montreal appeared to