

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

THE SENATE.

Wednesday, March 23.—The House sat for two hours with closed doors, a question of privilege being under discussion. When the doors were opened, Hon. Mr. ODELL moved an address for a return relating to the amounts appropriated and expended by the Dominion Government since the Union upon the line of communication between Quebec and N. Brunswick. The motion was carried after remarks from several members. Hon. Mr. WARK moved for a select committee to examine into matters relating to the re-survey of the Intercolonial Railway. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the bill relating to Masters' and Mates' certificates. After discussion of the third section, committee rose and reported progress and the House adjourned.

Thursday, March 24.—On motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, the Bill to amend the Act respecting Cruelty to Animals, and the Bill to amend the Extradition Act were read a second time. The House then went again into Committee on the Bill relating to Masters' and Mates' Certificates. Sections 3 to the last were agreed to with the exception of section 7. On this section Hon. Mr. MITCHELL introduced an amendment to the effect that ships leaving a Dominion port for another Dominion port, or American Colonial or United States ports should be exempt from the requirements of the Act as to Masters' Certificates. Committee then rose and reported the Bill as amended and the report was adopted. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL introduced a Bill for the organization of the Department of Secretary of State for the Provinces.

The Senate then adjourned till Monday.

Monday, March 28.—Hon. Mr. BORSBOND enquired whether the Government had received any authentic information respecting the imprisonment of British subjects at Red River, and what measures had been taken for their release. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL replied that the Government had no information whatever, beyond the correspondence already laid on the table. He said overtures could not be made for the release of the prisoners, as Mr. Riel could not be recognized. On motion of Hon. Mr. MITCHELL the Bill respecting Lighthouses, Buoys and Beacons was read a third time and passed; also, on motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL the Bills amending the Extradition Act and the Act respecting Cruelty to Animals. On motion of Hon. Mr. BIRNIE the Bill respecting Certificates of Masters and Mates was read a third time and passed. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL then moved the second reading of Mr. Martin's Relief Bill (Divorce Bill), which was carried on the following division:—Contents, 35; non-contents, 19. The bill was then referred to a select committee. On motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, the Bill for the organization of the Department of the Secretary of State for the Provinces was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, March 22.—Sir GEORGE E. CARTER presented a Report on the state of the Militia; he also laid before the House the regulations for active and reserve militia and military schools, prepared by the Adjutant General and approved by the Governor in Council. Some conversation ensued relating to the printing of the departmental reports. The concurrence in the Resolutions respecting Dominion Notes was then put; and the resolutions having been read over *seriatim*, were concurred in. On the second clause being read, Mr. CARTER moved an amendment providing that the reserves held by the Government shall be twenty-five per cent., not of the debentures, but of the issues. After some debate the amendment was lost. Yeas, 59; nays, 91. Mr. BLAKE moved an amendment to the original resolution that the resolution be referred back to committee to insert a clause providing that there should be a specie reserve proportionate to the Dominion notes outstanding. This amendment was also lost: yeas, 53; nays, 92. Mr. MACKENZIE then moved the following amendment: "That the sum to be held in specie by the Receiver-General for the redemption of Dominion notes shall be 20 per cent. upon the amount thereof in circulation, so long as such amount does not exceed \$5,000,000. For any excess over five millions 25 per cent. of such excess shall be so held, and the debentures of the Dominion shall be held to the full amount by which such specie falls short of the total issue of the Dominion notes. After some remarks by Hon. Mr. DENNIS and explanations of the method of working from Hon. Mr. WOOD, the amendment was put and lost. Yeas, 53; nays, 92. The main motion was carried on division. With reference to the last resolution, Sir A. T. GALT said he could not approve of doing away with the system of inspection, and would like to divide the House on that resolution. The resolution was carried on division. Sir FRANCIS HICKES then introduced a Bill founded on the resolutions. Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN moved the House into committee on the Bill to extend the powers of the Official Arbitrators in certain cases therein mentioned. He explained that the bill had been amended to make it applicable only to cases since 1867, and applicable to no other department than that of Public Works. Committee rose and reported the resolutions as amended, and the bill was then read a first and second time. On motion of Hon. Mr. DENNIS the Census Bill was read a second time. The House adjourned at 10 o'clock.

Wednesday, March 23.—After routine business Mr. MAGUI moved for copies of all orders in Council, reports of engineers and correspondence in reference to enlarging the St. Lawrence and Ottawa canals. He argued that nothing was so important to the natural progress of the country as the enlargement of these canals. He instanced the case of Montreal; where a great improvement had taken place since the Lower St. Lawrence had been deepened sufficiently to allow large vessels to come direct to the wharves from the sea, and argued that the same improvement would be visible all over the province if the canals were enlarged. Mr. STREET seconded the motion, urging the necessity for immediate action in the matter, lest we lose the carrying trade we have gained by these canals. He thought nothing would be so likely to enable us to obtain reciprocity as the construction of these canals. Mr. SHANLY objected to the appointment of a commission to whom would be entrusted the canal enquiry. He did not see why with a Board of Public Works such a step was necessary. He said it was a mistake to suppose that the American trade with Europe in grain is increasing, and strongly advocated the construction of the Caughnawaga canal as a means of increasing our carrying trade. Mr. McCALLUM said that the enlargement of the canals was of the highest importance to the whole country, as it would enable the different provinces to exchange products. It would give the Lower Provinces the privilege of a coasting and inland trade of 2,000 miles, and, on the other hand, would

benefit Ontario by giving her vessels employment in the winter months. Mr. JONES (Leeds and Grenville) did not think the Dominion should spend sixteen millions of dollars on enlarging the canals for the purpose of allowing farmers from Illinois, Minnesota and the Western States to send their produce to England and compete with Canadian farmers, unless there was some prospect of getting a return. Mr. BURKE spoke of the necessity of constructing the Bay Verte canal. Mr. MACKENZIE opposed the appointment of a commission. He urged the importance of enlarging our canals, and thereby securing the trade of the west along our route down to Montreal. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD explained that a commission was to be issued in compliance with the wishes of a deputation from both branches of the legislature. The canal system of Canada had, he thought, proved sufficient for the trade of the country, previous to the acquisition of the North West; but now steps would be taken for the enlargement of the Welland Canal, and perhaps of the St. Lawrence Canal. He also spoke of the Pacific Road as a matter for immediate consideration, as well as the water communication at the head of Lake Superior. He doubted whether, as the carrying trade is denied us by the United States, the profits from tolls would be sufficient to warrant the enlargement of the canals. If the Americans found we were going to enlarge our canals without Reciprocity, they would be more indifferent about giving it. Sir A. T. GALT believed the enlargement of the canals would attract foreign shipping to Montreal and Quebec. The debate was then adjourned. Several private bills were then advanced a stage, after which Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the third reading of the Bill relating to Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in New Brunswick. Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN would not oppose the bill as it was merely for the appointment of a judge. Hon. Mr. HOLTON said voting for the bill was the same as voting for Divorce. He would call the yeas and nays. After some further remarks, Mr. PELLETIER moved that the bill be not read a third time but that it be resolved that the New Brunswick Divorce Court be abolished. A long debate followed which was finally adjourned.

Thursday, March 24.—Mr. DUBESNE called attention to the report respecting contractors on the Intercolonial Railway whose contracts had been annulled. He complained that the reports did not give all the information desired, and especially that they omitted to say anything about the price paid to each contractor. He wanted to prevent the contract price per mile from being made up on one pretext or another which could not be understood, to \$30,000 or \$40,000 per mile. Mr. WALSH said the general report of the Commissioners would contain all the information on the subject. Mr. FORBES resumed the debate on the Election Bill. He approved of the machinery for preparing the lists of voters, but objected to the expense. He also objected to the proposed diminution of the electoral franchise. He preferred open voting to the ballot, as being less open to fraud. Mr. BELLEFLORE objected to the third clause of the Bill, which obliged a tenant to possess a written lease of five years or upwards, and by which a large number of French Canadians throughout the province of Quebec would be disfranchised. He also considered as unjust the 83rd. clause, which gave to any one voter a right to demand a poll. He disapproved of the present system of Election Committees of the House; he thought disputed elections should be left to the Judges of the Superior Courts. He also objected to the present property qualification law. Mr. STURTON thought the franchise should be given to those who had \$300 a year; he objected to extending the franchise to government officers. Mr. BOWELL objected to uniformity in election arrangements throughout the Dominion, as it would be very costly, and was not necessary. He thought the franchise should be given to those with \$300 a year and advocated the necessity of a simultaneous polling. Mr. GODIN spoke in favour of simultaneous elections and the ballot. After some further debate the bill was read a second time on division. Friday being a statutory holiday, the House adjourned till Saturday at noon.

Saturday, March 25.—Hon. Mr. HERTZ asked if the usual statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Dominion would be brought down this year, and if so, when. Sir FRANCIS HICKES replied that the statement would be brought down with the estimates. On motion of Hon. Mr. DENNIS the House went into committee on the Census Bill. A number of verbal amendments were made, and the salaries of the enumerators were fixed at three dollars a day, and those of the commissioners at four dollars. A few of the clauses and the preamble were reserved for future discussion, and the committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the second reading of the Bill respecting the Coasting Trade of Canada, and explained its provisions. Mr. MACKENZIE drew the attention of the Government to several defects in the return respecting the shipping and navigation. He complained that American vessels on the Canadian coast enjoyed liberties that were not extended to our vessels on the other side. Hon. Mr. TILLEY said the Government were disposed not to adopt any retaliatory measures against the Americans, but rather to deal liberally with them. Mr. CAMERON (Huron) said that the law was not effectively carried out and the result was that Canadian shipping interests were completely paralysed, and the coasting trade was almost entirely in the hands of the Americans. He urged the importance of having a better system of recording wrecks on the lakes. The bill was read a second time, and the House then went into committee on it and reported it without amendment. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the second reading of the bill respecting the Queen's Printer, which provided that the office should be attached to the department of State. Carried. On motion of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD the House then adjourned in respect to the memory of the late Mr. Kirkpatrick, member for Frontenac.

Monday, March 28.—Several private bills having been advanced a stage, Mr. WRIGHT moved for a select committee on a petition praying for the improvement of the navigation of the Ottawa and French rivers. He dwelt on the importance of adopting a liberal policy in reference to our canals and navigation, and specially advocated the opening up of this route as being the shortest to the West. Mr. SHANLY, in seconding the motion, said the subject of enlarging the canals should engage the immediate attention of the Government, as our trade was suffering greatly from the insufficiency of accommodation in the way of canals. Dr. GRANT objected to the appointment of a commission on account of the expense, but strongly advocated the construction of the Ottawa canal. Mr. YOUNG also objected to a commission, and trusted that the matter would be placed in the hands of practical men, of whom there were enough in the Department to deal with it properly. Mr. McDONALD (South Renfrew) disapproved of the commission.

Mr. OLIVER favoured the scheme, and was followed by Sir FRANCIS HICKES, Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BLANCHET, Mr. RYAN (Montreal), and Mr. SIMPSON, all of whom spoke in favour of the scheme. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD explained that the intention of the Government in appointing a commission was not to delay the execution of the work, but to collect the necessary information, and the commission would in no way interfere with the progress of those works that require to be undertaken at once. Hon. Mr. CHAVEAU contended that the local Governments had no lands to spare for Dominion purposes. Hon. J. S. MACDONALD opposed the new canal project as extravagant. Mr. ROSS (Dundas) thought existing canals should be improved before new ones were commenced. Mr. FERGUSON replied to the arguments of the member for Cornwall. Mr. CURRIE supported the appointment of a commission. Hon. Mr. HOLTON wished to know the nature of the commission before expressing himself one way or another. Hon. Mr. HOWE deprecated entering upon any such undertaking without due deliberation and exact information. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said that, to satisfy the House, he would lay a draft of the proposed commission before the House before it issued. The motion then passed. After some conversation on the business of the House and the bringing down of the Budget, the House adjourned.

THE RED RIVER.

The following is an extract from a letter dated Pembina March 4th.

"Captain Lynch, of the Canadian Volunteers at Winnipeg, left here on the 2nd inst. for Canada, accompanied by Mr. Provencher, Mr. Wm. Dreevor, of Winnipeg, and a few French half-breeds. Capt. Lynch and his company were released on the 21st of February, on condition of their becoming bound to keep the peace so long as they remained in the country. The Captain has suffered considerably in health from his long confinement, the last week or ten days of which was spent in irons. Affairs in the Territory remain as unsettled as ever. The efforts of Mr. Smith, as Commissioner, being so directed as to make matters worse than before."

From the same point letters have been received at St. Paul up to the 7th March. They assert that a Canadian named Scott was court-martialled and shot in front of Fort Garry, because after having been released on parole he had again taken up arms against Riel. He was taken prisoner in Boulton's party. Bishop Tache left Pembina for Fort Garry on the 7th March.

A despatch has been received from St. Paul, 23th, which says that:

A letter, written at Pembina on the 7th, giving the circumstances of the shooting of Thomas Scott, is published. At the time Dr. Schultz and Mr. Hardy were captured, about mid-winter, one Scott, a Canadian, was of the party. At the time Dr. Schultz and Major Boulton were camped at the Scottish Church, Scott joined Major Boulton and Dr. Schultz the same evening of his release. A few days before Major Boulton surrendered, the said Scott was taken with arms in his hands. In due time a court-martial was convened, Scott was tried, found guilty, and on the 4th inst. shot in front of Fort Garry. All is now quiet in the settlement. A letter from Fort Garry says the delegates from the convention would not start until after the arrival of Bishop Tache in the settlement.

Messrs. Longman, the London publishers, announce the appearance in May of a new political novel by Mr. Disraeli.

The newspapers have again commenced circulating rumours about Fenian descents upon Canada. The last report is that the O'Neil wing are moving, being specially active along the Lower Canadian frontier.

The Count de Champagny has been inducted into the chair of the French Academy vacated by the death of M. Berryer. His discourse, in eulogy of his distinguished predecessor, fills more than a page of small type in the Paris journals.

A despatch from Brest announced that a French Canadian Papal Zouave, named Morissette, was stabbed in that city on the 24th ult. as he was embarking for New York on his return to Canada after two years' service in the Papal army. Morissette was a native of St. Roch's, Quebec.

The Newfoundland Legislature has been prevented from transacting business for want of a quorum, since the 24th Feb. last. The House consists of 30 members, and the rules require 20 members present besides the Speaker to form a quorum. The Unionists absent themselves and the Ministerial party can muster only 19, hence the dead-lock. An election will be held on the 5th inst., to fill a vacancy, when it is expected that the new member, being an "Anti," will attend and enable the Legislature to proceed with business.

The English House of Commons has been very busy lately on a Bill for the protection of life and property in Ireland, which having passed through the Lower House was read a third time in the House of Lords on Monday. In the Commons on Monday night the Marquis of Hartington, the Post-Master General, announced that, owing to the recent reduction in the transatlantic postage, steamers heretofore carrying the American mails had now refused them, and consequently contracts had been made with the German and other lines.

THE ARMY IN THE COLONIES.—A return has been issued (supplementary to the "Army Estimates") showing the amount included in the Army Estimates, 1870-71, for military purposes to the Colonies, and the probable repayments by the several Colonies on the same account. The totals of the cost to Great Britain are as follows:—Australia, £143,570; Canada, £696,285; Cape of Good Hope (including St. Helena and Mauritius), £365,291; China and Ceylon, £420,511; Mediterranean, £614,459; West Coast of Africa, £83,824; West Indies and Windward and Leeward Islands, £275,046. In regard to repayments, nothing is expected from the West Coast of Africa, Australia, Canada, Gibraltar, and the West Indies. The Cape of Good Hope is expected to repay £13,500 out of the £365,291; Ceylon, with Labuan and Straits settlements, £220,300; Hong Kong, £20,000; Malta, £6,200; and Mauritius, £45,000; and the Windward and Leeward Islands, £4,000. The total cost of the army in the Colonies to Great Britain for the year 1870-71 is thus—£2,589,886, of which amount repayments to the extent of £309,000 are expected.

MUSIC.

MR. J. B. LABELLE begs to announce that he has resumed the teaching of instrumental music, and will be happy to give lessons on the Organ, Piano, Harp, or Guitar, either at his own, or the pupils' residence, on very moderate terms. Mr. LABELLE may be addressed at the Office of this Paper, No. 10, Place d'Armes.