

amendment and consolidation of the Inspection Laws.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

10. I have given directions that the accounts of the past, and of the first six months of the present financial year, shall be laid before you without delay. You will be gratified to learn that the finances of the Dominion are in a prosperous condition, and that there is no reason to doubt that the revenue will be sufficient to meet all contemplated charges upon it.

The Estimates for the ensuing year, which will be submitted to you, have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service, and I venture to hope that you will be of opinion that the supplies which my Government will ask you to vote, can be granted without inconvenience to the people.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

11. Many of the subjects I have enumerated are of the greatest importance. It is with full confidence in your patriotism and wisdom that I commend them to your consideration, and I trust that a Gracious Providence may guide your Counsels in whatever may best promote the happiness of the people of Canada, and the welfare of the Empire at large.

The consideration of the Address was ordered to be taken up to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL took the oath prescribed by law.

After some formal motions the House adjourned until 3 o'clock the following day.

Thursday, 6th March, 1873.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3 o'clock.

ANSWER TO ADDRESS.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved the consideration of His Excellency's speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST said that when he had asked on the previous day for a delay until Monday the Postmaster General replied that it was not in accordance with the usage of Parliament to defer the answer to the speech, but he had looked into the subject, and his hon. friend opposite (Mr. Christie) was prepared with authorities to prove that it was in accordance with the practice and usage of Parliament to defer the answer, at the request of the hon. member who wished for additional information. He had stated on the pre-

vious day, and he still adhered to the opinion that there were such grave topics mentioned in the address, that many hon. gentlemen naturally wished time to consider them.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE said that when he had stated on the previous day that it was a parliamentary practice to ask for the production of papers, he had been under the impression that he was right, and that the Postmaster General was somewhat astray. Now, since yesterday, he had examined the Parliamentary authorities on such subjects, and found that Todd stated that, pending the agreement of the House to the address, questions may be put to Ministers and motions made for the production of papers. He also quoted from the Parliamentary records a case in point, and then went on to say that he had asked for delay because he wished for more information on a very important question mentioned in the speech.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL explained that he had simply stated that no papers could be brought down until the Address was considered. The authorities quoted by the previous speaker simply proved that a member might move for papers—a right he had never denied. The House would see that it could not have more information before it on Monday than it had to-day.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST said that he had little doubt if more time was given, gentlemen would by some means or other have more information before them. For instance, he had learned that a member of the Senate had been ready to enter into a contract for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but had been refused by the Government. He now learned from an organ of the Government that Senator MacPherson "is a man of wealth," but he has "neither energy nor ability;" Senator MacPherson "ruined the Grand Trunk Railway;" he is "like Satan;" he is "guilty of splendid egotism." All this was certainly something new, and if the House were to delay a little more, perhaps similar information of an equally curious character would come out. It was certainly time that the House and country knew all the rights of the question. It was not treating the House with proper respect to refuse the request of gentlemen for a little more time for due consideration. Those were certainly extraordinary facts which we found stated in a Government organ.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—Those are not facts.