

landing in England, and sent them to their homes, and by arrangement they were to be reimbursed for their outlay in this matter.

Mr. LANDERKIN called attention to the need of some asylum for idiots. In Ontario there were 3,000 of this unfortunate class and there was only asylum accommodation for about 30.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—That is a matter that belongs wholly to the Local Legislatures. I quite admit the importance of the subject, but it is wholly beyond our jurisdiction.—Item passed.

On item 148, steamboat inspection, \$14,200,

Hon. Mr. SMITH said the Government did not wish to make any money out of this inspection, and therefore they only imposed such fees as were necessary to meet the expenses of inspection. They had recently been able to reduce the fees from ten cents to seven cents.—Item passed.

The Committee then rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The House adjourned at 10.20.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, February 22nd, 1875.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER laid on the table a list of stockholders in the Union Bank of Lower Canada, the Ontario Bank, and the Bank of St. Jean.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Hon. J. H. CAMERON—To consolidate and amend the acts relating to the Provincial Insurance Company of Canada.

Mr. WRIGHT (Ottawa)—To confirm the articles of agreement and consolidation between the European and North American Railroad Company, for extension from St. John westward to the European and North American Railway Company of Maine, and for other purposes set out in this Act.

Mr. YOUNG (Waterloo) moved that a message be sent to the Senate requesting their honours will give leave to the Hon. Mr. BELROSE, one of their members, to attend and give evidence before the Select

Hon Mr. Smith.

Standing Committee of this House on Public Accounts.—Carried.

ENQUIRIES INTO PUBLIC MATTERS.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE introduced an Act touching the true construction of the Act respecting enquiries into public matters.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON asked for explanations. The title did not explain the object of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said if the title did not explain it the preamble would. It was as follows:—"Whereas it is the right and privilege of the House of Commons that the said House should itself institute and control enquiries into charges preferred in that House by members thereof against ministers of the Crown; and that such charges should not be made the ground of enquiry by any other tribunal. And whereas it is not fitting that such right and privilege should be infringed, or that such charges should be made the ground of enquiry by the executive through commissioners nominated by the accused parties. And whereas such an enquiry was lately made under powers conferred by an Act respecting enquiries concerning public matters. And whereas thereby doubts have been thrown on the said right and privilege, and on the true construction of the said Act, it is expedient that such doubts should be removed." The Bill was to declare that the Act did not authorize the issue of a Royal Commission in such cases.

The Bill was read the first time.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received a certificate and report relating to the North Wellington election, declaring said election void. The facts connected with the case were known to the House. Justice GWYNN had sent in a corrected certificate with a letter explaining his mistake in the first instance. Under the Act, however, he (the SPEAKER) had no power to withdraw the first writ and issue a new one. He therefore laid the case before the House.

Hon. Mr. FOURNIER said it was a mere technical error. In transferring to the Judges the power to try controverted elections, the House also gave the Speaker its jurisdiction in relation to the issuing of writs. Under the acts of 1873 and 1874