

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 28th January, 1884.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

LANGTRY vs. DUMOULIN.

A Petition was read from C. and H. D. Gamble and others praying that the Clerk of the House may be ordered to attend with certain Journals and Records before the Master in Chancery in Ottawa, in the matter of Langtry, *et al*, vs. Dumoulin.

Mr. WILLIAMS moved that the petition be now read and received.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. WILLIAMS moved that leave be given to the proper officer to attend in accordance with the prayer of the said petitioners.

Motion agreed to.

BILL INTRODUCED.

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 17) to repeal an Act respecting the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, and the issue of Licenses therefor.—(Mr. Cameron, Huron.)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. BOWELL. Before the Orders of the Day are called I desire to explain that I misunderstood the question put to me by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Paterson) on Friday last, in reference to the equivalent of wheat for a barrel of flour. I understood him to ask whether any change had been made in the Order in Council with reference to the exportation of Canadian flour as an equivalent for American flour, and consequently the answer which I gave was not correct. A change was made increasing the quantity which would be taken as an equivalent for the American flour, and this was done on account of representations which were made to the Government that the wheat of this year would not produce as much flour as that of former years.

Mr. MACKENZIE. What was the change?

Mr. BOWELL. I think the difference was about ten pounds.

SECOND READING.

The following Bill was read the second time:—

Bill (No. 9) to amend the several Acts relating to the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company.—(Mr. Kilvert.)

PAYMENTS ON SETTLERS' LANDS.

Mr. FARROW enquired, Will the Government extend the time for payment to the settlers on lands in Manitoba? If so, what length of time will be given, and what rate of interest charged?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is not the present intention of the Government to change the time, but each case will be dealt with on its own merits.

GOVERNMENTAL EXPRESS SYSTEM.

Mr. FARROW enquired, Is it the intention of the Government to mature a scheme whereby they will take the express business of the country into their hands in connection with the Post Office business?

Mr. CARLING. It is not the present intention of the Government to mature such a scheme.

TWO CENT LETTER POSTAGE.

Mr. FARROW enquired, Is it the intention of the Government, this Session, to reduce the rate of postage on letters from three cents to two cents, as adopted in the United States?

Mr. CARLING. The matter is now under consideration.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF 1837.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron) enquired, Has the Government had under consideration the valuable services rendered to the country by the Volunteers of 1837, with a view of recognizing in some substantial way such services? If so, what conclusion has been arrived at?

Mr. CARON. The Government have not yet arrived at any conclusion on the question.

GREAT AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN SHORT LINE RAILWAY.

Mr. McISAAC enquired, Whether any arrangement has been made between the Government and the Great American and European Short Line Railway Company, to settle the unpaid claims of contractors and labourers for work done on the line of railway between Oxford and New Glasgow for the said company? If so, when will such claims be paid? If no such arrangement has been made, is the Minister of Railways in a position to state whether and when payment can be expected?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The Government have not made any arrangement to settle these claims, and I am not in a position to state whether or when any such payments can be expected?

NEGOTIATIONS OF COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

Mr. BLAKE moved for copies of all Orders in Council, correspondence and despatches touching the negotiations of commercial treaties, conventions or arrangements in which Canada is interested, and of all reports of the High Commissioner on the subject not already brought down; and particularly of all such papers relating to France, Spain, Brazil, Cuba or the United States. He said: It will be in the recollection of the House that during last Session, in the debate on the Budget, the hon. the Minister of Finance adverted to this general topic. He pointed out that, within three or four weeks before the time at which he was then speaking, an influential deputation had waited on the Government in reference to the extension of our trade with the West Indies. He said:

"Instead of asking Parliament, at the present time, to reduce the duty upon sugar or molasses, we propose to continue the enquiries we entered upon some time since with the view of extending trade with the West India Colonies. We have, in the past, experienced considerable difficulties, because these Colonies have very little revenue to spare. We find them anxious that we should give favourable consideration to their productions, but when we ask for a reduction of the duty on Canadian products, they hesitate, because they find it difficult to surrender the necessary revenue. In reference to Cuba, we proposed to the Spanish Government, through the High Commissioner in London, to ask Parliament for a subsidy for a steamer to ply between Canada and Cuba under the French flag, we paying the subsidy, if the products of Canada would be admitted on the terms which are extended to imports under the Spanish flag. That proposition, after some consideration, was refused. Other propositions have been before the Spanish Government for some time, and down to the present time they have not been successful, although, unlike the proposition in reference to subsidizing a steamer under the French flag, they have not refused them, and they are still under consideration. I can say, on behalf of the Government, that it is their intention during the recess to enter into negotiation with the West India Islands, and other sugar producing and coffee producing countries, to see whether any arrangement can be made by which we would be justified in submitting to Parliament, when