

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

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**Monday, December 2, 1867**

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

## ELECTION PETITIONS

The Speaker reported to the House that no objections having been filed to the recognizances attached to the Kamouraska and Yamaska election petitions, he returned them as unobjectionable.

## RULES OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker presented a body of rules and standing orders for the guidance of the House, compiled by him with the assistance of the Special Committee appointed for the purpose.

On motion of **Sir John A. Macdonald**, the said rules, etc. were ordered to be printed for the information of members.

## FISHERY BOUNTIES

**Mr. Bolton** asked whether any Fishery Bounties have been paid, or are intended to be paid, from the general revenues of the Dominion, since the 1st July last; and if so, are such bounties conferred to vessels or claimants of any particular portion of the Dominion?

**Hon. Mr. Rose** stated that no fishery bounties had been paid since the 1st of July. All that were now due would no doubt be paid either by the Dominion Government or the Local Governments.

## WEST INDIES

**Mr. Mills** asked whether any correspondence has taken place between the Government and any of the Governments of the West Indies, or with any of the Governments in South America, with a view to the promotion of direct trade, by a mutual reduction of the tariffs, by promoting free trade in certain articles, or by encouraging direct steam communication?

**Hon. Mr. McDougall** stated that no correspondence had taken place between this Government and the Governments of the

West Indies on the subject of direct trade, direct steam communications, etc. Such correspondence however had taken place on the part of the Government of the late Province of Canada, and of the other Provinces. He might add that arrangements had been made through the United States Government by which a mail had been sent by every steamer to St. Thomas, from which a great advantage had accrued to the people both of the West Indies and of these Provinces.

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TORONTO

**Mr. Harrison** asked whether the Government House in the City of Toronto was insured at the time of its destruction by fire, and whether the Confederate Government intend to take any, and if any, what steps towards its restoration?

**Hon. Mr. McDougall** stated that the Government House in Toronto was not insured at the time of its destruction by fire. As regarded the steps to be taken for its restoration, that was a matter for the Government of Ontario.

## EXCISE DUTY ON SPIRITS

**Mr. Harrison** enquired whether it was the intention of Government in the contemplated alterations in the tariff to increase the excise duty on spirits.

**Sir John** replied that it would be very improper to give the information asked for. (Laughter).

## BANK OF UPPER CANADA

**Mr. Metcalfe** presented a petition from Joseph Barber, praying that the rights of depositors and bill-holders of the Bank of Upper Canada may be protected in passing the Bill relating to that institution now before Parliament.

## INTERCOLONIAL RAILROAD

**Messrs. Sylvain and Bertrand** presented a number of petitions from Rimouski and Temiscouata, praying for the adoption of Major Robinson's route for the Intercolonial Railway.