

shortest line between a safe and convenient harbor on Georgian Bay, and the head of ocean navigation at Montreal, and praying for a thorough exploration of the country before any route was decided upon.

On motion of Hon. Mr. LETELLIER, the House adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock.

FRIDAY, April 24.

The House met at three o'clock.

COMMUNICATION WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD, of Victoria, B.C., moved "That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, for copies of all instructions given to any Engineer or other person to examine into the practicability of a Mixed Land and Water Trans Continental Communication with British Columbia, and for copies of any reports received from such Engineer or other person, and for copies of any other reports or papers on the subject of the feasibility of using the waters of the Saskatchewan River for navigation purposes during a portion of the year." The mover said he merely asked the House to pass the resolution as it stood. If the Government had any information on the subject he should be obliged to them for giving it.

The motion was seconded by the Hon. Mr. CORNWALL.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT replied—The Government had no objection to grant the address, but he was not aware that any instructions had been given to any of the engineers to report on the subject in question. Mr. Sandford Fleming was preparing a report which would very shortly be submitted. He thought it was now in print, and that in it was discussed the feasibility of the proposed scheme of the Government. They would be very happy to bring down any papers that bore on the question. There were none in the form contemplated by the motion.

In reply to Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the information to be submitted was the result of Mr. Fleming's observations in years past, not of observations since the Government scheme was proposed. It would have been utterly impossible to have obtained surveys and a report within this last period.

Hon. Dr. CARRALL—Do I understand you to say the Government have prepared a scheme?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes; a scheme for the connection of this country, by land and water, with British Columbia. He thought the hon. gentleman was aware of it.

Hon. Dr. CARRALL—I was not.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is generally known, however.

THE COPYRIGHT QUESTION.

Hon. Mr. RYAN said—The subject to which I have to call the attention of the Government by my enquiry of to-day, is a very old one. It is one which has been before this House since 1868, and, I regret to say, without much effect having been produced in the direction which the House desires. I hope that the House has not lost its interest; I am sure the country, generally, has not lost its interest in the subject of giving to Canadian printers the same facilities and privileges which are enjoyed by the printers of other parts of this Continent. I regret very much to see that my honourable friend, to whose department my enquiry more particularly applies, the Minister of Agriculture, is not in his place, because from him, when sitting on the opposition side of the House, I always received a great deal of encouragement and assistance, when, from time to time, I brought this subject before it. I will just recall some circumstances connected with the subject of reprinting British copyrights in London, and the action taken in regard to it here and elsewhere, which, without troubling the House with many details, will elucidate the present position of the question. After striving for four years, from 1868 to 1872, against very adverse circumstances, we induced the Government of that day, which indeed, always gave assistance in promoting the object in view, to introduce a bill which would have settled the question most effectually, completely and satisfactorily to Canada. That bill was brought up in this House and went down and passed also in the House of Commons, and subsequently was with other bills submitted for the Royal assent at the close of the session of 1872. But I regret to say, that for reasons which, I suppose, were deemed sufficient the bill was reserved for Her Majesty's pleasure, and has been left in abeyance ever since; now, although I have more than once asked the question whether any despatches as to the Royal assent having been given, had been received, by the Dominion Government. I am sorry to say up to this period, no intimation has been