

April 22, 1874

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 22, 1874

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3.10 p.m.

Prayers

PETITIONS PRESENTED

A large number of petitions in favour of a prohibitory liquor law were presented, **Mr. RYAN** presenting one from Montreal containing upwards of three thousand signatures.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) presented three petitions from the City of Toronto, praying that a prohibitory liquor law be not passed, and **Mr. WILKES** presented one from 300 inhabitants of Toronto Centre in favour of it.

Several Private Bill petitions were also presented.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) presented a petition for amendments to the Act of incorporation of the Ontario Bank.

Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal West) presented a petition from the Mayor and citizens of Montreal, praying for amendment to Act 36 Vic., Cap. 61.

Mr. IRVING presented a petition from Edward Gurney and others, for an Act of Incorporation for the Neutral Link Railway Company, to run from Lake Nipissing to Muskoka.

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PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex West) submitted the second report of the Committee on a Prohibitory Liquor Law, recommending the appointment of a Commission to proceed to such States of the Union as have a prohibitory liquor law, take evidence as to the working of the measure and report to the House.

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BILLS INTRODUCED

The following Bills were introduced:—

Mr. JODOIN—To grant certain powers to the Richelieu River Hydraulic and Manufacturing Company.

Mr. McDONNELL—To amend Act 35 Vic., Cap. 17, relating to polling districts in the County of Inverness.

Mr. COOK—To provide for the examination and licensing of persons employed as engineers elsewhere than on steamboats.

RETURNS

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry) laid on the table the correspondence relating to the dismissal of Mr. Munro from the Postmastership of Lanark, and the re-instatement of Mr. Robinson.

Mr. HAGGART enquired if the hon. gentleman did not intend to make any explanations. (*Order.*)

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry) said he did not intend at this point to make any observations, and he thought the papers would in themselves be a justification of the conduct of the Government.

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GASPÉ ELECTION

The **SPEAKER** announced that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery was in attendance with the poll-books and other papers connected with the Gaspé election, in accordance with the order of the House.

Mr. TASCHEREAU moved that the papers be read.

The papers were then taken and read, in order that such portions of them, as it was thought necessary, should appear in the *Journals of the House*. No further action was taken in the matter.

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GOVERNMENT LANDS

Mr. BIGGAR enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to recognize the rights acquired by the persons who have for many years past been in occupation of the Government lands on Presqu'île Point, in the Township of Brighton, in the County of Northumberland, and Province of Ontario, by granting them leases or patents upon their paying the government the value of the land before the improvements.

Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland) said the subject was under the consideration of the Department. No conclusion had yet been arrived at upon the point.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD reminded the hon. gentleman that these were Ordnance lands, and could not be sold under their value.

Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland) said the case was correctly stated by the right hon. member for Kingston. He (Hon. Mr. Smith) had mistaken the question.