

April 13, 1871

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 13, 1871

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at three o'clock.

Prayers

AFTER ROUTINE

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

Mr. STREET moved the reception of the report of the Library Committee.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON took exception to a paragraph in the report, which recommended that the librarian should procure a copy of every Canadian work published. He said that many of such works might be worthless, and should not be purchased. He moved in amendment, and in order that pressure might not be brought to have every work purchased, that the number should be limited to fifty.

Hon. Mr. GRAY explained that the report was a joint report, in which the Senate Committee was concerned.

The report was adopted, subject to the amendment proposed by the **Hon. Mr. HOLTON**.

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THE JOINT HIGH COMMISSION

In reply to **Hon. Mr. HOLTON**'s question as to whether any information could with propriety be furnished to the House as to the proceedings of the Joint High Commission so far as they affected the public business,

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said the Government were not in a position to give any information as to the proceedings of the Joint High Commission.

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PACIFIC RAILWAY

In reply to **Mr. CARTWRIGHT** as to whether the resolution respecting the construction of the Pacific Railway adopted by the House the other day had been transmitted to the British Columbia Government,

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER replied that there was necessity to communicate it, though possibly it might form the subject of a despatch if the Governor General should think it advisable to do so.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Hon. Mr. HOWE said as this was the last day of the session he wished to call attention to an attack made upon him in a former debate by the hon. member for Lambton. That hon. gentleman at some public meetings which he had attended in the West, had repeated some of the stories circulated to his prejudice last year, and assailed him personally in his absence. He had taken no notice of these slanders, but the member for Lambton while he was ill and confined to his house, made a stab at his vacant chair and hazarded a statement to which he desired to give a flat contradiction. The words as taken down by the Hon. Minister of Customs, were that he (**Hon. Mr. Howe**) in the North West—referring to the British flag then flying over a house—had given orders to “Take down that rag,” and had “wished to God that the Yankees had the whole country.” As the hon. Member for Lambton was not in his seat, and as he understood, had returned to his home, he should make no further comment upon his conduct than to say that the language attributed to him was an open invention and a disreputable falsehood.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON desired to say on behalf of the hon. member for Lambton, who would not be in his seat again this session, that it was unfortunate that this matter had not been brought up earlier in the session in order that the hon. member for Lambton might either make good his statement, or if it should be proved to be unfounded, that he might withdraw the charge. He (**Hon. Mr. Holton**) was sure that the hon. gentleman, if present, would do either one thing or the other, for no member in the house was more candid in correcting an error which he might make in the heat of a debate. Of course he (**Hon. Mr. Holton**) did not attempt to substantiate the statement of his hon. friend; he merely rose to say that it was a pity the matter had not been referred to earlier in the session.

Hon. Mr. HOWE said his intention was to have replied to it the moment he entered the House and took his seat, but at the suggestion of his colleagues, he left it over in the expectation that when the hon. member for Lambton should rise at the close of the session to make his usual criticism on the course of the Government a chance would be given to him (**Hon. Mr. Howe**) to refer to this matter, without interruption to the progress of public business.