

April 2, 1873

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 2, 1873

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers

PETITIONS

Among the petitions presented were a number from the Dominion Board of Trade, asking for the amendment on sundry laws.

A large number of petitions were presented for the passage of a prohibitory liquor law.

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ELECTION COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL presented a report of the General Committee on Elections.

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BILLS INTRODUCED

Mr. MORRISON introduced a bill to amend the Act incorporating the Erie and Niagara Railway Company; also, a bill to amend the Act incorporating the Detroit River Railway Bridge Company.

Mr. MORRISON introduced a bill to incorporate the Canada Car and Manufacturing Company.

Mr. WITTON introduced a bill to incorporate the Dominion Fire and Inland Marine Insurance Company.

Mr. BEATY introduced a bill to incorporate the Western Bank of Canada.

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NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION

Hon. Mr. HUNTINGTON said he felt compelled by a deep sense of duty to place the motion he was about to make before the House at the earliest possible moment, in view of the very grave question raised. He had already stated in his place that he was credibly informed that arrangements had been made by Sir Hugh Allan and an American gentleman representing certain American capitalists for the construction of the Pacific Railway, in

anticipation of the legislation of last session; that the Government was aware of this, and that subsequently arrangements were made between the Government and Sir Hugh Allan by which a large sum of money was to be paid to the Government for the purpose of influencing the recent elections; in return for which Sir Hugh Allan and his friends were free to receive the contract for the construction of the railway, and that was done.

He therefore moved, seconded by **Mr. FOURNIER**: "That Hon. Mr. Huntington, a member of this House, having stated in his place that he is credibly informed and believes that he can establish by satisfactory evidence, that in anticipation of the legislation of last session as to the Pacific Railway, an agreement was made between Sir Hugh Allan, acting for himself and certain other Canadian promoters, and G.M. McMullen, acting for certain United States capitalists, whereby the latter agreed to furnish all the funds necessary for the construction of the contemplated railway, and to give the former a certain percentage of the interest, in consideration of their interest and position, the scheme agreed on being ostensibly that of a Canadian Company, with Sir High Allan at its head; that the Government was aware that negotiations were pending between these parties; that subsequently an understanding was come to between the Government and Sir High Allan and Mr. Abbott, M.P., that Sir Hugh Allan and his friends should advance a large sum of money for the purpose of aiding the election of Ministers and their supporters at the ensuing general election, and that he and his friends should receive the contract for the construction of the railway; that accordingly Sir High Allan did advance a large sum of money for the purpose mentioned, and at the solicitation and under the pressing instances of Ministers; that part of the moneys expended by Sir High Allan in connection with the obtaining of the Act of incorporation and charter were paid to him by the said United States capitalists, under the agreement with him".

It is ordered: "That a Committee of seven members be appointed to enquire into all the circumstances connected with the negotiations for the construction of the Pacific Railway, with the legislation of last session on the subject, and with the granting of the charter to Sir Hugh Allan and others; with power to send for personal papers and records and with instructions to report in full the evidence taken before, and all the proceedings of the said Committee".

On the motion being put to the House by the Speaker, there were loud cries of "carried" from the Opposition, and "lost" from the Government side.

The motion having been read by the Speaker in English, and by the Clerk in French—