

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Perhaps my opinion may not be of much weight on this question; but I do not think it at all necessary to oppose a Bill of this kind. I think a Court of Justice or an institution of any kind which cannot stand investigation cannot stand very high in the estimation of the country. I shall be glad to hear any discussion on this or any other matter, and I do not think that allowing the Bill to be introduced can be objected to. I think to object would be an act of discourtesy to the hon. gentleman who proposes to introduce it. The Supreme Court, I admit, is a high tribunal, and one which should receive the protection of the Government and the Country; but the Senate and other institutions have been attacked before now; and, although I do not believe in the expediency of abolishing the Senate, still I should not object to the introduction of a Bill to do away with it altogether, if any hon. member should think proper to introduce such a Bill.

*Bill read the first time.*

#### SABLE ISLAND—TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

##### QUESTION.

MR. ROBERTSON (Shelburne) enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to connect Sable Island with the mainland of the Province of Nova Scotia by marine telegraph, during the present year.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: That is under the consideration of the Government.

#### STRATFORD POST-OFFICE AND CUSTOM-HOUSE.

##### QUESTION.

MR. HESSON enquired, Whether the Government have decided to accept the valuable lands proposed to be donated by the town of Stratford for the purpose of erecting a post-office and Custom-house thereon; and, if so, is it the intention of the Government to erect said post-office and Custom-house at an early date?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: In the absence of the Postmaster-General, I may state that we do not find that there has been any such offer made to the Government.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

#### MANITOBA—ALLOTMENT TO MINORS. QUESTION.

MR. SCHULTZ enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to proceed with the allotment to minors in the unallotted parishes of Manitoba.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD stated that the allotments had taken place in St. Boniface and several other parishes, and were received on the 17th instant, and the Agent of the Dominion reported that the allotment in St. François Xavier and the remaining parishes would be sent in a few days.

#### BOUNDARY BETWEEN ONTARIO AND UNORGANISED TERRITORIES OF THE DOMINION.

##### ADJOURNED DEBATE.

House resumed the adjourned debate on Mr. Dawson's motion:—"That a Select Committee be appointed to enquire into, and report to this House upon all matters connected with the Boundaries between the Province of Ontario, and the unorganised Territories of the Dominion with power to send for persons and papers; said Committee to be composed of Messrs. Dawson, Robinson, Geoffrion, DeCosmos, Brecken, Royal, Trow, Mousseau, Caron, McDonald (Cape Breton), and Weldon, of whom five to form a quorum."

MR. MACKENZIE: Before the vote is taken, I desire to notice very briefly some arguments and statements made by hon. gentlemen opposite in the debate yesterday. I regret that the hon. the Minister of Justice is not in his place, as I desire to allude to some of his remarks, but I will defer doing so until later on. The hon. gentleman at the head of the Government strongly objected to the mode of settlement, and devoted remarks yesterday to showing that the course pursued by the late Government was not one which should have been taken; but there are some reasons why we may fairly doubt whether his own opinion was always in that direction. When the matter was first brought under discussion, under the late Sandfield Macdonald, that gentleman employed the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Macdougall) to make some preliminary examinations by inspection of maps, plans, books, papers, Acts of Parliament, and other documents. I do not propose to discuss the report of that hon. gentleman at all; but he was the one who, in the first