

The amendment was carried on a division.

PRIVATE BILL.

A Bill from the Senate, providing for the amalgamation of the Niagara and District Bank with the Imperial Bank, was read a first time.

The House adjourned at 10.40 p. m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Friday, March 12th, 1875.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three P. M.

CANADA SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

Mr. MACDOUGALL, (East Elgin), introduced a Bill to authorize the Canada Southern Railway Company to acquire the Erie and Niagara Railway, and for other purposes.

REPORTING THE DEBATES.

Mr. ROSS, (Middlesex), said the House was aware that in the early part of the session it was resolved that the management of the reporting of the debates should be entrusted for this session to the Joint Committee on Printing. That committee appointed a sub-committee to take charge of the work, and that sub-committee felt that their responsibility ceased this session, as the order of reference only applied to this session. It seemed to be generally desired that the official reports should continue, and he would therefore move, that a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. CAUCHON, TUPPER, DYMOND, BOWELL and the mover be appointed to make all necessary arrangements concerning the publication of the debates next session, and report to the House with all convenient speed.—Carried.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE introduced a Bill respecting the Intercolonial Railway. He said the object of the Bill was to place under one Act the administration of that railway. At present the portion of that road built by the Nova Scotia Government was administered under the Act of the Legislature of that Province; the portion built by New Brunswick under a New Brunswick Act, and the Intercolonial Railway proper under the Dominion Act.

*Mr. MacDougal.*

This Bill was to place under one Act the whole of the railway system of the Lower Provinces.

Bill read a first time.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE introduced a Bill to amend and consolidate the laws respecting the North-West Territories. As he intimated on a former occasion the Government decided some time ago to establish an entirely independent Government in those territories. To a certain extent it would have been advisable, before such an Act was passed, if it could be done, to have the boundary of Manitoba rectified, but that was a matter which it was difficult to deal with at the present moment. He thought it would be advisable as soon as the boundary between the Province of Ontario and the North-West Territories was established, that that boundary should become the boundary of the Province of Manitoba. At present the 96th degree of longitude was the eastern boundary of that Province, and the contention of the Ontario Government was that they owned the territory to the centre of the Lake of the Woods, and to a line running directly north from Lake Itaska, in Minnesota, to the head waters of the Mississippi. It was known from the returns laid before Parliament that the Government of the Dominion, and the Ontario Government, had decided upon an arbitration to define this boundary; and the Dominion Government had nominated ex-Lieutenant Governor WILMOT, of New Brunswick, while the Ontario Government had nominated Chief Justice RICHARDS. These gentlemen were to choose a third arbitrator, and both parties to the arrangement were to abide by the decision arrived at. The hon. member for Kingston, when leader of the Government, made a proposal to the Ontario Government two years ago, to have this matter referred to the Privy Council for settlement. While there was no particular objection to that course, it was thought advisable by the present Government that it should be settled in the way he had explained. Until that settlement had been reached, which he hoped it would be in a short time, as each side had prepared its case, and the two arbitrators would shortly have a meeting, it was difficult to define the bound-