

THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 20, 1867

The House opened at three o'clock.

An informal debate opening up in reference to the occupation by strangers of the gallery set apart in the House of Commons for the members of the Senate, it appeared in the course of the conversation, which lasted some time, and which became somewhat spicy, that the place in question had been at times filled by persons admitted by members of the Senate themselves, to the inconvenience of other members. After a good many suggestions it was resolved, on motion of **Hon. Mr. Campbell**, that hereafter room be kept in the said gallery for members of the Senate and that the Speaker of the House of Commons be requested to issue tickets representing the additional seats; said tickets to be placed within the hands of the Speaker of this House, and by him distributed to the members on application.

Sundry petitions were presented, among them one by **Hon. Mr. Flint**, from certain inhabitants of Belleville, praying for the establishment of a Local Bank.

Hon. Mr. Campbell submitted the return to an address praying for a copy of the Royal instructions sent to His Excellency respecting the passage of Bills by Parliament.

A message was reported from the House of Commons, brought by **Messrs. Mackenzie and Young**, naming the Printing Committee of that House, and requesting that the Printing Committee of this Senate should co-operate with their Committee during the Session—as a Joint Committee.

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Campbell**, the Printing Committee of the Senate was directed to do so.

Hon. Mr. Wark gave notice that on Friday next he will move that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, respectfully requesting that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House, copies of the correspondence which has taken place between Her Majesty's Imperial Government, the Government of the late Province of Canada, the Government of this Dominion, and the Hudson's Bay Company, relative to the claims of that Company to the North-West Territory, and the transfer of such claims. Also copies of reports of

explanations made under instruction from either of the aforesaid Governments, with the view of opening up communication with the said territory, and more especially with that part of it known as the Red River Settlement, and any estimates which have been prepared of the cost of opening such communication.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

In reply to the **Hon. Mr. Tessier's** inquiries,

Hon. Mr. Campbell said it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill respecting the Intercolonial Railway during the first part of this session. That the route must first be approved of by the Imperial Government before the money necessary for its construction can be obtained. After survey the Government of the Dominion would submit their recommendations to the Imperial Government.

Hon. Mr. Tessier then said with regard to the motion praying for reports, papers, and correspondence relating to the Intercolonial Railway since last session, that as a similar one had been made in the other branch, to avoid the double expense, he would withdraw his own. As a Bill was to be introduced he hoped, however, that all the papers necessary to an intelligent apprehension of the merits would be supplied. He would not now occupy the time of the House in speaking about the route the road should take, but would say that it was a vitally important point. If a mistake were made in this matter, it could not afterwards be remedied, and it was not perhaps too much to add that upon the wisdom of the choice of route might very largely depend the prosperity of the Union.

Hon. Mr. Campbell said the papers would be supplied at an early day.

Hon. Mr. Ryan gave notice that on Monday, 25th instant, he will move to inquire whether it is the intention of Government to include in the estimates to be laid before Parliament this session amounts equal to one half of the usual grants to charitable and literary institutions, so as to prevent them from suffering loss in consequence of the recent change in our form of Government; these institutions having hitherto received grants for the year terminating December 31st, and the Local Governments only having come into existence on the 1st of July last.

CUNARD STEAMERS

Hon. Mr. McCully rose to propose the inquiries of which he had given notice. 1st,