

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 4, 1868

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Hon. J. H. Cameron moved the reception of a petition from Thomas Rigney, praying for the settlement of an old claim for payments and services in connection with obtaining the Reciprocity Treaty.

Hon. Messrs. Gray and Johnson opposed the reception of the petition on the ground that it referred to a claim with which the House of Commons of the Dominion had nothing to do.

Mr. Mackenzie also opposed its reception, and read from May's Parliamentary Practice to show that the House should refuse to receive money petitions, and that the only way in which claims for money could be dealt with was by memorializing the Government and their recommending the House to make the grant.

Hon. J. H. Cameron replied. He said precisely the same rule as was now appealed to existed under the old Parliament of Canada; and yet it had been the constant practice to receive such petitions. He had himself presented a money petition from certain clergymen of the Church of England. It was objected that the petition could not be received, but the objection was overruled and the petition was received. He afterwards moved its reference to a Committee, and on the Committee reporting favourably, the Government acted on their report and recommended a grant. That was the practice under the same rules and the same state of law as now existed, and the only question was whether a new practice should now be established.

Hon. Mr. Holton said the old practice was an evasion of the law. He hoped a new practice would be established in conformity with the law.

Hon. Mr. Rose expressed himself in favour of the practice of the English Parliament being adopted. As the matter was one, however, of considerable importance, he would suggest that the question be allowed to stand over till to-morrow.

Mr. Mackenzie saw no objection to postponing the question if Government were clear that the ruling should be in accordance with the actual state of the law.

Sir G. E. Cartier said that the Speaker, before giving his decision, was entitled to an expression of opinion on the part of members. The Government, as a Government, had not considered the question, and the Speaker, he thought, would be entitled to their views on it, which would be given to-morrow.

The decision was postponed.

NEW LIGHT HOUSES RECOMMENDED

Mr. Fortin presented a report from the Fisheries Committee recommending the erection of fifteen new light house and beacon lights in lower ports and lakes, and insisting on such lights at Bird Rock in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Red Island Reef in the St. Lawrence; also the establishment of a new system of fog-horns, bells, guns, and other apparatus for fog or storm; also a drawback of duty on cordage, canvas and chains when imported for fishing purposes.

HEMLOCK TIMBER

Mr. Pope presented a report from the Special Committee on hemlock timber. The Committee reported that they felt it their duty to urge on the Government that an export duty of one dollar a cord be imposed on hemlock bark to prevent the wholesale destruction of our timber forests now going on.

MONTREAL EAST ELECTION

Mr. Blake presented the final report of the Montreal East Election Committee. The Committee found—first, that the sitting member, **Sir G. E. Cartier**, was duly elected; second, that the petition of Mederic Lanctot against the election was frivolous and vexatious; third, that the petition of the sitting member was not frivolous nor vexatious.

EPISCOPALIAN CHURCH

Hon. J. H. Cameron introduced a Bill to permit the Bishops' clergy and laity of the