

BANK OF HASTINGS

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Read**, the Bill to incorporate the Bank of Hastings was read a second time, and referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS

Hon. Mr. Carling asked whether it is the intention of the Government, during the session, to bring in a measure having for its object the equalization of the qualification of voters for members of Parliament in the several Provinces of the Dominion. He said during the last session a Bill was passed affecting the qualification of voters. It increased in cities and towns in Upper Canada the qualifications, so that in cities it was now \$600 real estate; in Nova Scotia, he believed it was \$150; and in New Brunswick, \$400. He thought the qualification in Upper Canada was altogether too high. The people in the city he had the honour to represent complained very much of the increase. Nearly one-fourth of the electors would be disfranchised at the next general election if the law remained as it now is. He thought the Government should take up the question and equalize the qualification of voters all over the Dominion.

Sir John A. Macdonald said it was the intention of the Government in the present session to bring in a measure affecting elections and qualifications of electors and candidates. That had already been announced in the Speech from the Throne. It would not be well just now to indicate the Government policy, but he might say that on a first impression it would seem to be a matter of course that the same class of persons should have votes in all portions of the Dominion. There was no such disparity between the circumstances of the people of the Maritime Provinces and of those of the late Province of Canada, as to warrant in his opinion, and he believed in the opinion of the Government, a different qualification in one section of the Dominion from what prevailed in another. As for his honourable friend's remark about the qualification in Upper Canada being too high, he did not wish to enter on the discussion of that.

METAPEDIAC ROAD

In reply to **Mr. Robitaille**, who asked whether it is the intention of the Government to take into consideration claims of certain contractors on the Metapediac Road, and to include in the estimates a sum sufficient to

meet the reasonable claims for indemnity of such contractors.

Hon. Mr. McDougall said that the claims of the contractors on the Metapediac Road were now before the Department of Public Works, and there was a sufficient sum in hand to meet whatever claims they might prove to be well founded.

DAM ON RIVER TRENT

In reply to **Mr. Keeler**, who asked whether it is the intention of the Government to order the removal of the dam at Chisholm's Rapids, on the River Trent, for the purpose of restoring the public health of the neighborhood, so long and so injuriously affected by the flooding of lands caused by the said dam, as stated in various petitions to the Legislature on the subject?

Hon. Mr. McDougall said it was not the intention of the Government to order the removal of the dam at Chisholm's Rapids, on the River Trent. There were important mills situated there that were of great advantage to the country, and which would have claims against the Government if the dam were destroyed. The matter had been reported upon by an officer of the Public Works Department.

MONTREAL POST OFFICE

To **Mr. Bourassa's** question, whether it had come to the knowledge of the Government that certain extraordinary dismissals have recently taken place in the Post Office of the City of Montreal, by order of the Postmaster of that place, and whether the Government is in a position to communicate to this House the reasons which occasioned such dismissals?

Sir John A. Macdonald said there had been two or three dismissals recently from the Post Office at Montreal. The Postmaster-General had made enquiries regarding the loss of certain money letters. After hearing the parties, he made up his mind that the explanations were not satisfactory, and the dismissals accordingly took place.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

To **Mr. Pozer's** question, put by **Mr. McConkey** in his absence, whether it is the intention of the Government, at an early date, and whether in this or in the next part of this session, to take any and what steps towards adopting a common standard for weights and measures for the Dominion?