

Monday, April 5, 1875.

The House met at three o'clock.

HON. MR. HAMILTON, for the Committee on Banking, Commerce and Railways, reported without amendment the bill to change the name of the Mutual Insurance Company of Canada to that of the Dominion Mutual Life Assurance Company, and to amend their Act of Incorporation. The bill was read a third time and passed.

HON. MR. HAMILTON, for the same Committee, reported without amendment, the bill to incorporate a company to construct and operate a railway from the Red River, in the Province of Manitoba, to a point in British Columbia, on the Pacific Ocean. The bill was read a third time and passed.

HON. MR. HAMILTON, for the same Committee, reported, with various amendments, the bill to incorporate the Quebec and Lake Huron Direct Railway Company.

HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST requested that the question of concurrence be postponed, and that the bill be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the House.—Agreed to.

HON. MR. BOURINOT inquired whether the Government had come to a decision for the immediate erection of the Marine and Quarantine Hospitals at Sydney, Cape Breton; also request that the names be given of the respective sites, with the sums to be paid the builders, and the owners of the sites? He stated that some time ago he had moved for some papers in relation to the Marine and Quarantine Hospital at Sydney. In looking over the tenders, he found that five had been sent in for the erection of the Marine Hospital. He would only mention the two lowest—one from Abner McKeen for \$6,720, the other from Patrick O'Toole for \$8,898; the latter, although the highest, had the contract awarded to him, having received official intimation from the Dominion Government to give the required bonds, &c. He left his home at Louisburg and went to Sydney, a distance of twenty-six miles, to comply with the order, but to his great astonishment he was informed on his arrival there, by the gentleman acting on behalf of the Government, that they had

reconsidered the matter, and had decided to give the work to Abner McKeen. Now he (Mr. Bourinot) wished to ascertain why the Government had changed their mind; evidently there was some good reason for refusing the lowest tender in the first instance, and some mysterious influence had evidently induced the Minister to change his views. Patrick O'Toole had, at much inconvenience and expense, gone a long distance, at an inclement season, at the instance of the Government. He wished, then, to know clearly and explicitly why he had been so deceived; had the lowest tender been increased, or a promise to be so on the completion of the work? He wished, also, to know the sites determined on for both hospitals, and the prices given for them.

HON. MR. SCOTT replied that he had information only in regard to one hospital, as he had understood that the notice of enquiry only referred to one. He would say that the Government intended proceeding with the erection of a Marine Hospital at Sydney. The site chosen was the property of A. J. White, and the price to be paid therefor was \$800. One other proposed site was Point Edward, the property of the Imperial Government, but seeing they could not obtain Point Edward, they purchased the other site at the price named. With regard to the other points of his hon. friend's inquiry, he was not able to answer just now, but he would endeavor to get further information regarding the matter to-morrow.

THE INSOLVENCY BILL.

HON. MR. SCOTT moved the House go into Committee of the Whole to resume the consideration of the Insolvency Bill.—Hon. Mr. Bellerose was called to the chair.

HON. MR. SCOTT moved the adoption of clause 125, which, he explained, related to imprisonment for debt, and was in the Act of 1869. Carried.

Clause 128, regulating the power of appeal from the order of the judges in Quebec and elsewhere, was agreed to. Mr. Scott explained that all the clauses respecting frauds and preferences were the same almost as those of the Act of 1869. The alterations were very few. They were all agreed to.