

Mr. *Mackenzie*, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Excellency the Governor General, signed by His Excellency,

And the said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, (all the Members of the House standing and being uncovered) and is as followeth :—

Dufferin :

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, the Report of a Commission appointed by Order in Council of 22nd July, 1876, to enquire into the affairs of the Northern Railway Company of *Canada*. (*Sessional Papers, No. 10.*)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ottawa, 15th February, 1877.

And then The House adjourned till To-morrow.

Friday, 16th February, 1877.

Mr. Speaker said :—“ In respect to the Petition of *Henry Mitchell*, and others, interested in the Coal Trade and Shipping interests of the Dominion, which was not received yesterday, I have to state to The House that I have since considered the question carefully. The objection to the asking of bounties will, I think, only apply to cases where an individual or individuals personally interested, ask for such bounty as will be profitable to themselves. Where the Petition is of a general character, and is signed by persons other than those immediately interested, and, in fact, asks for a modification or change of the financial or fiscal policy of the Dominion, on the ground that such change will be beneficial to the country at large, then such a Petition stands precisely in the same position as one asking for an imposition of taxes for general purposes. On examination of this Petition I may state, that I see no reason to conclude that it is signed exclusively by persons immediately and directly interested, and I am therefore of opinion that it can be properly received.”

The said Petition, praying that the duty imposed by the *United States* on Canadian Coal may be neutralized by an equal bounty on all Coal sent to the *United States*; or that a duty of 50 cents per ton be imposed on all Coal imported into the Dominion, was then received.

The following Petitions were severally brought up, and laid on the Table :—

By Mr. *Thomson (Welland)*,—The Petition of the Provisional Directors of the *Canada Atlantic Cable Company*.

By Mr. *Pope (Queen's, P.E.I.)*,—The Petition of Messrs. *James Duncan & Co.*, and others, of *Charlottetown*; the Petition of *Patrick Trainor*, and others, of *Souris*; and the Petition of *Donald Montgomery*, and others, of *Georgetown, Prince Edward Island*, interested in the navigation of the *St. Lawrence*.

By Mr. *Fraser*,—The Petition of the Bank of *British North America*.

Mr. *Rymal*, from the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders, presented to the House the First Report of the said Committee, which was read as followeth :—

Your Committee have examined the Notices given on the following Petitions, and find them sufficient, viz :—Of the *London and Ontario Investment Company, Limited*, for certain amendments to their Act of incorporation,—Of the *Springhill and Parrs-*