

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

You will be asked, in order to provide against the possible interruption of the navigation of our great inland waters, for an appropriation in aid of the construction of a canal to connect the waters of Lakes Huron and Superior at Sault Ste. Marie.

The Accounts for the past year will be laid before you, as well as the Estimates for the ensuing year. They have been prepared with due regard to economy and the requirements of the Public Service.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :**Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I commend these important subjects and others which may be laid before you to your best consideration, with full confidence in your earnest desire to promote the development and well-being of Canada.

On motion of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, HIS EXCELLENCY'S Speech was ordered to be taken into consideration to-morrow.

## REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House, the Report of the Joint Librarians on the state of the Library of Parliament.

## SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved :

That Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections. 2. On Expiring Laws. 3. On Railways, Canals, and Telegraph Lines. 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills. 5. On Standing Orders. 6. On Printing. 7. On Public Accounts. 8. On Banking and Commerce. 9. On Immigration and Colonization; which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

## DEBATES COMMITTEE.

Mr. BOWELL. With the permission of the House I propose to move the usual Committee for the Supervision of the Debates of this House. In selecting the names we have had particular reference to the different sections of the whole Dominion, and have therefore selected a representative from each Province. I hope the names chosen will meet with the approval of the House. I beg to move :

That a Select Committee be appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of this House during the present Session, with power to report from time to time, the said Committee to be composed of Messrs. Baker, Béchard, Charlton, Colby, Davin, Desjardins, Ellis, Innes, McIntyre, Royal, Taylor, Tupper (Victou), Weldon (Albert).

Mr. BLAKE. I had rather that the hon. gentleman should move that on to-morrow, or move it as a notice for to-morrow.

Mr. BOWELL. It will stand as a notice for to-morrow.

## QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. WELDON (St. John). I beg to call the attention of the House to the matter connected with the election in the County of Queen's, N.B. I do not propose to enter into the question until we have the requisite information before the House. I feel this is a matter which affects the dignity and privileges of the House and the electors at large, and I hope it will not be approached in any partisan spirit. Without further discussing the matter I would move :

That the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery be ordered to attend at the opening of this House, to-morrow, with the return of the last election for the Electoral District of Queen's, in the Province of New Brunswick, together with all poll-books and all other papers, letters, documents and memoranda which may have been transmitted to him by the Returning Officer and received by him since the despatch of the Writ of Election, and copies of letters sent by him to the Returning Officer.

Mr. SPEAKER.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I understand that a question of great importance will arise in connection with the papers moved for. I have not the slightest objection to the motion.

Motion agreed to.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I understand a great deal of private legislation will come before the House this Session and it is advisable, therefore, that the Standing Committees be struck as soon as possible. I move :

That a Special Committee of seven members be appointed, to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees ordered by the House, this day; to be composed of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Richard Cartwright, and Messrs. McLelan, Bowell, Blake and Laurier.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 3:50 p. m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 15th April, 1887.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

## PRAYERS.

## QUEEN'S, N.B., ELECTION.

Mr. WELDON moved :

That the papers in possession of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery relating to the election in the Electoral District of Queen's, N.B., be now read

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I suppose they may be considered as read.

Mr. BLAKE. It is believed, from what we know of the contents of these papers, that it is necessary to follow them up with an immediate motion, and for that reason the House should be put in possession of them at once. I think the hon. gentleman will see, when he hears the papers read, that a sort of interlocutory motion is necessary.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think, however, that the matter will have to go to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, as is always done.

Motion agreed to, and the papers were read by the Clerk accordingly.

Mr. WELDON. My excuse for bringing this matter before the House is its great importance, inasmuch as it involves an infringement of the liberties of the people in general and of the electorate of Queen's, New Brunswick, in particular, and I trust that in discussing this matter we will avoid displaying any undue partisan spirit. This matter affects the rights and privileges of every elector in the Dominion, involving as it does, the decision of the question whether a returning officer can set at defiance the wishes of the majority of the electors of an electoral district by declaring, in the exercise of a jurisdiction not given to him and in defiance of the law, a party not elected to be elected a member of this House. It appears from the statements read by the clerk that the nominations were made and a poll was held, and that the court was adjourned for the purpose of receiving the return of the state of the poll. On the 28th of February the court was held, and then adjourned until the 5th of March, in consequence of some of the ballot boxes not being forthcoming, owing to