

ing "Petitions," running from 1837 to 1863, and find a number of petitions in that index, which have been received by the Lords—of a similar character to that now sought to be presented to the Senate. In looking into "Hansard," I find a number of those petitions were not only presented to the Lords, but acted on. In referring to "Todd," who was quoted by the Senator who presented this petition, we find this statement: "The practise of the House of Lords, in these particulars, is less stringent than that of the House of Commons. There is no rule or usage of the House of Lords to forbid the presentation and discussion of a petition for pecuniary redress or compensation, provided it be couched in general terms; and although the House of Lords have no right to initiate measures of taxation, or propositions for increasing the pecuniary burdens of the people, yet they are not constitutionally debarred from instituting inquiries by their own committees into financial matters, or into questions which involve the expenditure of public money. The consent of the Lords is indispensable to every legislative measure, whether of supply or otherwise, and it is desirable that they should be prepared, by full investigation and free inquiry, to give or withdraw their assent intelligently." I have noticed the terms of this petition and quite agree with the Senator to my left (Mr. Botaford) as to the application of the principle named by "Todd," that it must be couched in general terms. It is true that the petition asks for an appropriation for a *particular object*, but it does not ask for a *specific sum of money*. I am therefore of opinion that, as we have no rule of our own which forbids the presentation of petitions of this character and, as we have a rule providing that on all unprovided cases, reference shall be had to the usage of the House of Lords, and since that usage permits, it is quite regular to present this petition. I therefore decide that the petition is in order, and may be received.

BRITISH AMERICAN ASSURANCE CO.

(On motion of Hon. Mr. ALLAN, seconded by Hon. Mr. McMaster, the bill entitled an Act to amend the Act incorporating the British American Assurance Co., and other acts affecting the same, and to extend its powers, was read a third time.

RAILWAY TELEGRAPHS.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU introduced a bill to oblige Railway Companies to have tele-

graph lines along the routes. First reading.

ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER moved that when this House adjourns on Friday, it stand adjourned till half-past seven on Monday evening next—Carried.

CREDIT FONCIER.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU moved the second reading of the bill to incorporate Le Credit Foncier Royal Co. The hon. gentleman explained the measure in French. He said the bill possessed both a public and private character. The Credit Foncier bill he introduced last year met with a great success. The capital was promptly subscribed. He had introduced a new clause, rendering the machinery of the act and scheme a little easier, namely, putting the Company under Government inspection, and having the appointment of one of the auditors, charged with examining the accounts of the Company, to be appointed by the Government in certain cases. Now the three auditors were to be named by it. He intended making this Act similar to European Acts. We wanted, in these colonies, so full of natural resources, money to develop them, and the problem was the best way of attracting it hither. We needed banks of issue and discount, and loans on easy terms, to enable us to turn our advantages to profitable account. With the object of supplying this want, it was desired to establish a Credit Foncier institution on a solid foundation, the Government to have a voice in its management, in regard to its borrowing and lending. The Government would name auditors to deal with the loans to be raised in Europe and elsewhere. If irregularities were committed by the auditors or others, the Government could close the institution. If we could afford security for the repayment of moneys borrowed, or the payment of interest, by means of those institutions, we should succeed in establishing them, and imparting a great stimulus to the industries of the country. Many knew that a great number had taken stock in those companies, in Montreal, paid for by instalments, in some cases as low as four dollars a month. The prosperity of Montreal was due in no trifling measure to the operations of such corporations, which loaned money for building, received deposits at interest, and in other ways aided business. He said he desired to see the farmers assisted by the loans of such companies, as they would thus be enabled to extract