

ment entered into between the contractors and Her Majesty Queen Victoria, represented by the Minister of Railways and Canals, in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

#### SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

##### SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

*Resolved*, 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 on the 12th instant, said Committee to be composed of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Leonard Tilley, Sir Charles Tupper, and Messrs. Masson, Mackenzie, Holton and Laurier.—(Sir John A. Macdonald.)

#### RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

##### QUESTION.

MR. MACKENZIE: I would like to ask whether the Government have taken the steps they proposed to take to send whatever contribution is to be made to the Irish Relief Fund. I suggested on Friday evening that whatever is sent should be sent quickly, so that it may do the greatest amount of good.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: It is the intention of the Government to adopt the precedent of the grant made by Parliament to the sufferers from the Crimean War. There will be a Message from the Governor-General calling the attention of the House to the matter, and specifying the sum. I shall then move for an Address from this House, and that will be communicated to the other House when adopted; it will be a joint Address.

House adjourned at

Ten minutes before

Five o'clock.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 17th February, 1880.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

#### BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were severally introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 6) To amend the Act respecting the Election of Members of the House of Commons.—(Mr. Bolduc.)

SIR CHARLES TUPPER:

Bill (No. 7) To consolidate and amend the Acts respecting the Inland Revenue.—(Mr. Baby.)

#### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY— IMPERIAL AID.

##### QUESTION.

MR. BLAKE enquired, Whether there is any correspondence between the Canadian and Imperial Governments, or any report showing the result of the resolution of last Session, whereby the Government was authorised and directed to use its best efforts to secure the cooperation of the Imperial Government, and to obtain further aid, by guarantee or otherwise, in the construction of the Pacific Railway, and whether any such correspondence or report will, at an early day, be laid before Parliament.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I beg leave to state that there has been a confidential communication made to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in writing, on the subject of Imperial aid for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which it is not in the interest of the public to lay before Parliament at present. But there is no report on the subject, and no aid has been promised by the Imperial Government.

##### A QUESTION OF PROCEDURE.

MR. MACKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I desire again to call your attention to the matter to which I called it the other evening. You stated in your remarks then, that a Bill in a printed shape was put into your hands.

MR. SPEAKER: Not when I put the motion.

MR. MACKENZIE: No, but afterwards. The title of the Bill reads: "Act to repeal the Insolvency Laws now in force in the Dominion of Canada. Received and read the first time, Monday, 3rd March, 1879. Second reading, 17th March, 1879." Singularly enough, the name of Mr. Béchard is scored out and that of Mr. Colby put in its place.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the same copy, I am sure, because someone called my attention to it. The hon. member asked me if it was a Bill of last Session. I looked at the back of the Bill and saw it was dated for this year, 1880.

MR. MACKENZIE: If you received a copy, of a reprinted Bill, it ought to have