

In reply to Hon. Mr. Holton, **Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said it was not his intention to make the Financial statement tomorrow. He would simply move the House into Committee of Supply and pass a few items, to which no objection could be made. The financial statement would be made on Friday.

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#### SAVINGS BANKS RESOLUTIONS

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** inquired how it was that the savings banks resolutions had been made public, but had not yet been submitted to the members.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said they had not been made public with the sanction, direct or indirect, of any member of the Government.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said that information must have been published at an early period, for the substance of the measure had been telegraphed to Montreal, and appeared in a Montreal paper on Saturday.

The subject was dropped.

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#### SALARIES OF POSTMASTERS

**Mr. MACFARLANE** asked whether it is the intention of the Government to reimburse Postmasters paid by percentage the deficiency in the emoluments of their offices occasioned by the decreased postal rates created by 31 Vic., Cap. 10, so that the revenues received by them from such offices (since the establishment of such rates) may be repleted to make up an annual income equal to that received by them previous to the passage of said Act; and also whether any promise or suggestion was at any time made by the Postmaster General to any such officers that such would be done.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** replied that although there had been a considerable falling off in the post office receipts at the time the reduction of postal rates was made, the receipts were increasing. When the change had been made, the percentage of Postmasters was increased. He assured his hon. friends that the Postmasters did not suffer in any way from the decreased postal rates.

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#### RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

**Mr. COSTIGAN** asked whether the officers appointed by Government to make surveys of the Rivers Saint John and Madawaska, with a view of improving the navigation of the same, have yet reported thereon, and if so, what action the Government intend taking in the matter?

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** said that the officers appointed by Government to make surveys on the River Saint John and the Madawaska had reported thereon, and the report showed that these surveys were very extensive. The hon. member could not expect him now to give a résumé of the whole report, but he had no doubt if the hon. member would move at a future day for the production of the report it would be given, and the hon. member would find that it was very interesting. Several suggestions were made in it by the engineer, and the hon. member would see by the Estimates that Government intended to meet them. The hon. gentleman would also see that since the survey had been ordered events had occurred which would render certain changes necessary. New railways, to which large land grants had been made, were to be constructed, which might change the plans of the Government altogether in that direction.

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#### LEGISLATIVE UNION

**Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland)** asked whether the Government have had any correspondence with the local Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on the subject of a legislative union of those two provinces, which it is so desirable to accomplish.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** said there was no correspondence on the subject, but if the hon. gentleman would allow him to give his individual wish, he could say he wished such correspondence did exist, taking in also Prince Edward Island, so as to make one large maritime Province.

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#### THE TARIFF

**Mr. BOWMAN** asked whether it is the intention of the Government to revise the Customs Tariff during the present Session, and if so, whether they intend to place "Vegetable Ivory Nut" on the free list.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS:** The hon. member will have to wait for an answer.

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#### THE RED RIVER EXPEDITION

**Mr. MASSON (Soulanges)** moved for copies of all Orders in Council relative to the Red River Expedition with copies of correspondence between the Dominion Government and Colonel Wolseley.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** said that the Government would gladly comply with the request of the hon. member as far as possible, but he would inform the hon. gentleman that there was no