

March 24, 1871

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, March 24, 1871

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers

AFTER ROUTINE

FISHERIES

Hon. Mr. TUPPER brought down returns of Orders in Council issued relative to the Fisheries, and a statement of the means adopted by the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries to prevent sawdust and rubbish from being thrown into rivers frequented by fish, &c.

* * *

VAUDREUIL RAILWAY

Mr. SHANLY introduced a Bill concerning the Vaudreuil Railway Company.

* * *

SUN INSURANCE COMPANY

Mr. WORKMAN introduced a Bill to amend the charter of the *Sun* Insurance Company.

* * *

COMMERCIAL BANK OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Hon. Mr. TILLEY introduced a Bill relating to the Commercial Bank of New Brunswick.

* * *

WINDSOR BOARD OF TRADE

Mr. O'CONNOR introduced a Bill to incorporate the Board of Trade of the Town of Windsor.

All these bills received first reading.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT said, in reference to a petition which he had presented today relative to the archives of Canada that the object of the literary gentlemen whose names were attached to it, was to preserve all public documents which would be useful as records of the history of the country. He spoke at some length of the necessity of preserving these documents. He therefore moved that the petition be referred to the Joint Committee on the Library.

Hon. Mr. DORION hoped that steps would be taken to arrange and preserve the papers referred to. A great many of them were in the possession of the Quebec Government.

* * *

ST. PETER'S CANAL

In reply to Mr. Macdonald (Glengarry), who asked when the papers relating to St. Peter's Canal would be brought down, **Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** said that he thought they would be brought down on Monday.

* * *

MANITOBA BILL

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER gave notice that on Tuesday next he would move that the House go into committee on a resolution praying that Her Majesty should cause a Bill to be laid before the Imperial Parliament with reference to the Province of Manitoba. (*Ironical hear, hear.*)

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT observed that the despatches were not complete. There was a despatch from the Earl of Kimberley, saying that the Draft Bill had been sent out, but that Bill was not submitted.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said this Government had no authority to submit it to the House.

Mr. BLAKE said that the Minister of Justice stated that the only difficulty was that there might be some possible technical objection to submitting the Bill to this House before it was brought before the Imperial Parliament.

Mr. MACKENZIE said that the Minister of Justice had promised to submit the Bill.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said there was no promise made.

Mr. MACKENZIE said that there was such a promise.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said it lay with the Governor-General to allow a Bill to be submitted to this Parliament before it was presented to the Imperial Parliament.

The matter was then dropped.

* * *

ROCKWOOD ASYLUM

Hon. Mr. MORRIS gave notice that he would on Tuesday next submit a resolution to the House to empower the Government to treat with the Ontario Government for the sale or lease of the Rockwood Asylum.

* * *

FORTIFICATIONS

Hon. Mr. HOLTON before going into Committee of Supply, asked whether the Government intended to act upon the power they possessed to expend money on fortifications during the approaching Parliamentary recess, or whether they were prepared to assure Parliament that no steps looking to an expenditure under the Appropriation Act of 1868 would be taken until this Parliament should again meet at its next session. He was persuaded that the all but unanimous feeling of the country was averse to any expenditure being undertaken under the existing Acts.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said the Government had considered the question and had come to the conclusion that they would not expend any money under the power granted them during the recess, and at the next session if they intended to do anything they would inform the House of it. (*Cheers.*) He was glad that he had elicited cheers from the Opposition. (*Laughter.*)

* * *

SUPPLY

The House went into Committee of Supply, **Mr. STREET** in the chair.

The item of \$5,000 for Protection to Little Hope lighthouse was carried.

On the details of expenditure on the Departmental and Parliament Buildings, some discussion took place.

Mr. MACKENZIE complained of the inefficient manner in which the public buildings were heated. Any one who had the misfortune to sit in this Legislative Chamber knew that it could only be done at the risk of health from drafts. He believed that the Government deserved credit for having resisted the claim of Mr. Carth for \$37,000 for heating the buildings. The system was the most inefficient and costly one that could have been adopted. It was the natural result, however, of employing men to look after it, not because they were fitted for the business, but because they were Government partisans.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said that the Government had decided to enquire into the matter, and would endeavour to obtain a more economical system. The present cost of heating the buildings was \$30,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE was confident that the object might be obtained for one third of the amount.

Item carried.

Item of \$50,000 for Library Building.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said the Building would be finished by November next.—Carried.

Item of \$207,880 for Tower, Railings, Grounds, &c., of Parliament Buildings.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said the object of the vote was to complete the whole work. The Tower would be completed, and it was desirable that a proper fence should be erected and the grounds put in proper order. The fence would be erected during the year 1871-72.

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North) asked whether plans had been decided upon.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN answered in the negative, and said that when the plans were decided on, they would be laid before the House.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked whether the sums asked would cover all expenses.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said he would not say positively, but did not think much more would be required. The amounts were to cover the cost of construction and not of repairs. The tower was to be completed with wood and iron, not stone. Tenders had not yet been called for—as Engineers had thought it advisable not to finish the tower at once. The tower had now settled equally and would be able to be completed.