

May 17, 1873

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Saturday, May 17, 1873

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

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*Prayers*

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### PRINTING

**Hon. Mr. BLANCHET** moved the adoption of the report of the Joint Committee on Printing.—Carried.

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### PRIVATE BILLS

**Hon. Mr. McDONALD (Antigonish)** moved the adoption of the report of the Committee on Private Bills, recommending an alteration of the rules.—Carried.

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### INCREASE OF SALARIES - LIBRARY

After routine,

The Library Committee's report, recommending an increase of salaries was adopted.

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### PACIFIC RAILWAY INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** desired to call the attention of the House to a matter of some importance. The House had ordered a Committee of investigation into certain matters connected with the Pacific Railway. That Committee had adjourned until the 2nd July. It was empowered to summon witnesses, and to adjourn, not only from time to time, but from place to place. Under the ordinary procedure of the House, committees had no authority to incur any expenditure whatever connected with the summoning of witnesses until those witnesses had appeared. The Committee would undoubtedly require to incur expenses of various kinds and of a contingent nature. It was quite possible that witnesses might decline to travel considerable distance until their travelling expenses were furnished.

It appeared to him, therefore, that it was essentially necessary in some way to place the Chairman in a position to defray the necessary expense of prosecuting the inquiry, whether it was by the vote of the House or by action of Government. It was quite clear

something ought to be done in order to carry out the express will of the House in the matter.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** said he quite agreed with the hon. gentleman, and he suggested that the necessary sums should be advanced by Mr. Speaker from the Contingencies, on the demand of the chairman of the Committee.

The suggestion was agreed to.

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### ADMISSION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** moved, "That the House will on Monday next resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions with reference to the proposed admission of Prince Edward Island into the Dominion of Canada, and the message of His Excellency the Governor General on that subject."

He said it was pretty well known what was the nature of the proposition made to the Island Government in 1869 under the authority of this House by resolutions authorizing the Government to enter into negotiations and in those negotiations to provide for the purchase of lands owned by absentee proprietors. The Government then undertook on behalf of the Parliament of Canada to give the Island a sum of \$800,000 in lieu of crown lands, to enable the Government of the Island to purchase the lands owned by absentee proprietors. Hon. members generally were aware that the proposition of 1869 varied very little from that made to the other Provinces except in this particular, and also in the fact that the Government undertook to maintain steam communication between the Island and the Dominion.

He would state the changes which had been made in subsequent negotiations. In the proposition of 1869 the Island was to come in with a debt of \$27.77 per head according to populations, and, of course, was to receive eighty cents per head, to be increased every ten years after the taking of the census. One of the changes consisted in increasing the debt to \$50 per head. That was arrived at in this manner. The expenditure on the Intercolonial Railway had not been made in 1869, neither had the money been voted for the Pacific Railway, neither had the canal policy, involving a large expenditure of money, been settled by the Parliament of Canada; neither had the Island constructed any public works of consequence.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE:** The canal policy had been settled.

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** said the extent of it had not been settled. The Commission had been appointed since then, and it was upon that