

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS, 1871.

Parliament opened on 15th February. The Governor General, in his speech, alluded to the Fenian raid; militia expenditure consequent on it; the peaceful settlement of the Red River troubles; the address from British Columbia asking for admission into the Confederation; the Pacific Railway; the settlement of the N. W. country and opening means of communication; the Joint High Commission; the Assimilation of the Currency; the Census; Insurance Companies; Savings Banks; Weights and Measures, &c., as subjects which required the attention of Parliament.

The Revenue for the past year was stated to be in a flourishing condition, with a prospect of diminution of taxation; the Estimates are promised.

Feb. 16th—In the Senate, Hon. Mr. Campbell paid a brief tribute of respect to the three members who had died during the recess, Messrs. Crawford, Ross and Anderson. He was followed by Messrs. Letellier de St. Just and Dickey, and the House adjourned out of respect to their memory.

In the Commons, Sir John A. Macdonald replied to question of Mr. Mackenzie that on the appointment of a Lieut. Gov. for Manitoba his first duty had been to take a census with all possible speed. The moment this was taken, and the division of the new province for electoral purposes reported, writs had been sent up for elections. Sir John did not doubt the legality of the appointments to the Senate, but he trusted arrangements could be effected to be transmitted to England by next mail, for submission to the Imperial Parliament.

Sir A. T. Galt asked for correspondence on the Fisheries. Sir J. A. Macdonald promised it without delay.

Mr. Lacerte moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick, both briefly going over the points of the speech and expressing concurrence with the policy recommended. Mr. Mackenzie followed, speaking at some length of the relations of Canada to the U. S., and announcing his decided opposition to the yielding up of any of our rights. He was not satisfied with the condition of things in Manitoba. He stated the Government should have the earnest and cordial support of the Opposition in every thing relating to the welfare of the country; but he should lose no opportunity of pointing out the grievous results to the country of the present administration. Sir J. A. Macdonald replied, and congratulated the country that the hon. member had been able to find no worse grievance than a speech of the hon. member for Cumberland (about Manitoba). He defended the course of the Government with regard to Manitoba. He protested against statements being made in the House, on mere rumour, affecting the character or conduct of public persons. The British system that no member shall make statements he cannot verify or does not believe strictly true, should be followed. After a little more discussion the Address was concurred in.

Feb. 20th—In the Senate, on motion of Hon. Mr. Campbell, an address of congratulation to the Governor General on his accession to the Peerage was passed.

In the Commons, Sir John A. Macdonald laid on the table the correspondence respecting the Fisheries, and made some explanations respecting it and the proposed Joint High Commission. A discussion arose upon the North West Indemnity claims and the Manitoba Act. Mr. Mackenzie asked for Depart-

mental reports, which were promised in a few days.

Feb. 21—SENATE—Routine business merely. COMMONS—Motion by Hon. Mr. Dunkin, to introduce amended "Census Act." There was some discussion between Hons. Sir Francis Hincks and Mr. Holton on the exportation of silver question. An address of congratulation to the Governor General was voted, and the Supply Bill introduced. Some explanations were made by Mr. Morris respecting changes in mode of receiving payments in Inland Revenue Department.

Feb. 23rd—SENATE—Committee appointed upon Intercolonial Railway.

COMMONS—A debate took place on the question of the Quebec and Ontario arbitration.

Feb. 24th—SENATE—Hon. Mr. Tessier introduced a motion respecting the Arbitration question, contending the award was illegal and unjust to Quebec. The discussion was considered premature by the majority, and the House adjourned.

COMMONS—Sir A. T. Galt moved Resolutions on the International Commission, to the effect that the Fisheries question was especially within the powers of the Canadian Parliament, and protesting against the surrender of the rights of the Dominion. Mr. Galt insisted particularly on the Canadian right of compensation for Fenian raids, on the value of the Fisheries and navigation of the St. Lawrence, in return for Reciprocity, and protested against any Treaty being made, placing Canada in a position of subordination to the U. States. Sir J. A. Macdonald in reply deprecated any expression of distrust in the Imperial Government, which had reiteratedly pledged the whole force of the Empire to the defence of the Dominion, should it be required, and insisted there was no evidence to show Canadian interests would be sacrificed, and no treaty could be binding till assented to by the Canadian Parliament. Mr. Mackenzie said that from all past experience in Treaties between England and the U. States, the Canadian people were justified in having some doubts of obtaining a satisfactory settlement. But as the matter was already settled and the head of the Canadian Government appointed a member of the Commission, which was a guarantee Canadian interests would not be disregarded, he advised withdrawal of resolutions. After some further discussion the resolutions were withdrawn.

Feb. 27—SENATE—On a motion for papers relating to the Fisheries, Hon. Mr. Mitchell made a long and elaborate resumé of the whole question. Several of the Senators expressed opinions against sacrifice of Canadian rights. Mr. Mitchell explained that no treaty would be concluded without the consent of the Parliament of Canada.

COMMONS—Discussion arose on a motion of Mr. Godin on the subject of officers of the Dominion Government being employed by the Local Governments on the Arbitration subject. Messrs. Mackenzie, Chauveau and Galt contended that such employment was improper. Mr. Blake moved that the House should express an opinion, that it is inexpedient in future, that any member of the House should be engaged in any paid employ in the service of the Government. In the Independence of Parliament Act a man might sit in the House and receive a monthly salary, but not a yearly. The Hon. Mr. Gray had received \$300 a month for more than two years. The distinction between monthly and yearly salary was wrong.