

possible assistance to the Dominion Government. Hon. Mr. Dorion moved resolutions on the subject of the Arbitration Award. He contended it had been made on a mistaken basis. His scheme was for an address for an amendment to the British North American Act, providing for the assumption of the whole debt by the Dominion, compensating the Lower Provinces for so doing. Sir George E. Cartier said the resolutions were out of order, and after some discussion on the point the Speaker ruled that they were so. Mr. Bodwell moved resolutions respecting Government railways in Nova Scotia, stating that did not pay expenses, and urging their being disposed of by tender. Hon. Mr. Langevin said there had been large expenditure in repairs the last year. In the preceding year there had been a surplus of receipts over expenditure, and the disposal of them would injure the intercolonial line. Messrs. McDougall, Tupper, Anglin, Howe, and Smith supported Mr. Langevin's views and the debate was adjourned. Mr. McDougall complained of the attack made on him in the Senate, by Hon. Mr. Miller, which Mr. Holton strongly condemned.

March 7, SENATE—Hon. Mr. Bourinot complained of the withdrawal of the steamer running between Halifax, Sydney, St. John, and Newfoundland. The Bill in reference to the N. W. Territories, was taken up. Mr. Bureau suggested that difficulties might arise from the very extensive powers given under the Act.

COMMONS—Sir Francis Hincks moved concurrence in the assimilation of currency resolutions. Mr. Chipman moved in amendment that the currency of Nova Scotia remain unchanged, saying a petition was on its way signed by all parties against the measure. Sir Francis Hincks said the postponement of the measure simply meant abandonment. The matter had already been delayed two sessions. After some discussion the concurrence was carried. On the second reading of the Election Bill, Mr. Young said the Laws of the different Provinces should be taken instead of going back to the old Law of 1867, and contended for simultaneous elections throughout the country. Mr. Harrison objected that this would prevent a proper representation of property, and it would prevent a man, however eminent, who chanced to become unpopular in one county, from becoming a member for another. Mr. Mills supported Mr. Young's views. Hon. Mr. Dorion advised a uniform law for the Dominion and objected to the method of appointing Returning Officers, and said the powers of these officers in making sub-divisions should be limited. Mr. Oliver approved of the Bill except that he thought the elections should be held simultaneously. The Bill was read a second time. The House went into Committee upon Savings Banks. In Nova Scotia, the system was to remain as at present, only allowing the Banks to have branches in the different towns. In New Brunswick, the St. John's Bank, hitherto managed by Trustees, was to be put on the same footing as that of Halifax, all the other Savings Banks being subsidiary to it. Banks in Quebec and Ontario were to have their choice of three things:—to arrange their matters with the Government, hand over their assets and allow the Government to manage them as a Government Savings Bank; to incorporate themselves with any chartered Bank in the Dominion, or to become incorporate themselves with a paid-up capital, 25 per cent. of

such capital to be paid by instalments, the surplus they may possess to be invested in Government securities for the benefit of charitable institutions. Sir A. T. Galt saw no great objection but wished for further explanations, as the proposal was, the establishment of institutions having all the characteristics of Banks of Issue except the name. Hon. Mr. Dorion thought as the Savings Banks had already worked well, it would be better to make the rules more stringent and leave them alone. Sir Francis Hincks denied that the resolutions could in any way be construed into establishing a Bank of Issue, he was not proposing to interfere immediately with the Banks, but offering them three modes of organization on sound principles. Mr. Dorion thought the depositors themselves ought to be the judges of the soundness of the Banks. Mr. Holton said two of the three Savings Banks in Quebec had special charters and would not be affected, he quite agreed these Banks were not founded on a secure basis and should be placed in a sounder position. The House then rose.

March 9th—SENATE—Hon. Mr. Dickey made some enquiries respecting Ocean Mail Service, pointing out the great importance of keeping up steam communication between Halifax and Europe. Messrs. Campbell and McLellan said steamboat proprietors complained of a lack of freight at Halifax.

COMMONS—Sir G. E. Cartier stated, on a motion of Mr. Masson, that 40,000 of Spencer and Snider rifles had been given by the Imperial to the Dominion Government. Hon. Mr. Dorion moved an address to Her Majesty on the Arbitration question, asking for power to be given to the Dominion Parliament to settle the same by Legislative enactment. Sir George Cartier said this course was hostile to the interests of Quebec, and moved in amendment that no action should be taken by the House till after the decision of the Privy Council on validity of the award. Hon. Mr. Chauveau moved in amendment to the amendment, that the House would favorably consider any measure introduced by the Government to settle the difficulty, involving any aid on the part of the Dominion commensurate with the object and our resources, due regard being had to rights of other Provinces. The arbitrators had unmistakably exceeded their powers as far as the assets were concerned, giving forty millions to one province and four to another. The Speaker decided Mr. Chauveau's motion out of order. Hon. Mr. Holton moved in amendment to Sir George Cartier's amendment, that difficulties having arisen threatening to give rise to serious embarrassments, the debt be assigned to the Dominion as if it had been so from the first, compensation being made to the Lower Provinces. Hon. J. H. Cameron characterised Mr. Holton's motion as a trap to catch members and really a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and said Ontario had to be considered as well as Quebec. Debate adjourned till Monday.

March 10th—SENATE—The Bill for extension of the Criminal Law to Manitoba was read the 2nd time and referred to Committee.

COMMONS—Sir Francis Hincks moved the House into Committee of Supply and made his financial statement. The increase of Debt since 1st July, 1867, was \$2,401,101 while there had been expended in Public Works \$4,759,000. The Intercolonial Railway expenditure had been \$1,787,451, and the N.