

to express opinions on the general policy of the country simultaneously with the Commons. Hon. Mr. Dickey and Hon. Mr. McPherson agreed in the propriety of simultaneous action. Hon. Mr. Campbell explained that as the measure would involve a serious burden on the country, it was desirable first to know the opinion of the Commons.

COMMONS—The various returns and reports were received, several Bills introduced, others read the third time, and the reports of the Committee of Supply carried without discussion, excepting that for steam communication between Halifax and St. John, which was opposed by Mr. Holton and several Ontario members, on the ground that it was a false principle to subsidize local steamers, and should be left to the Local Government. Hon. Dr. Tupper defended the grant. Hon. Mr. Tilley said that all lines of steamships connecting different Provinces came within the power of the Dominion. The present line had been assisted by the Local Government before Confederation, and since that time the Dominion Government had been the proper party to furnish the aid. On motion of Hon. Mr. Dunkin, the Census item was reduced from \$360,000 to \$260,000. The Customs items were carried. On the Inland Revenue items, Mr. Holton asked for explanation of the increase of expenditure. Mr. Morris said the work had increased excessively, and the salaries paid were exceedingly inadequate. The Post Office and Public Works items were carried and resolutions reported. Bill introduced to authorize the sale of Oakville Harbour, and to amend the Insurance Companies Act.

March 22—**SENATE**—Adjourned for a week in consequence of family affliction of the Speaker.

COMMONS—The Bill to amend Customs Duties was read 2nd time and passed through committee. On the motion for 3rd reading Mr. Holton moved in amendment the repeal of duties on coal, coke, flour and wheat. Sir Francis Hincks urged that this was not a proper time for the change and might embarrass the proceedings of the Joint High Commission. Mr. Holton thought that no good reason could be urged for the tax and would press his motion. Several of the Ontario Ministers opposed the tax on coal. Dr. Tupper said that trade in Nova Scotia coal had increased one-sixth since the imposition of the duty. The export to Ontario and Quebec had increased 50 per cent. Sir A. T. Galt supported the amendment. Hon. Col. Grey and Mr. Colby opposed it on the grounds that a national policy should be adopted and one year's trial was not sufficient to test it. Mr. Blanchet moved an amendment to the amendment to remove the duty also from salt, beans, barley, rye, buckwheat and all grains, indian meal, oatmeal, and all kinds of flour. Sir F. Hincks said if Government admitted any articles free, it should be all, and not a few selected to please the hon. member opposite. Hon. Mr. Blanchet's amendment was carried. Mr. Colby moved an amendment to the amendment that it is inexpedient to make any alterations in customs duties during the present session of Parliament. The Speaker ruled this amendment out of order, and Mr. Holton's motion as amended was carried.

March 23rd—After some enquiries being answered by ministers, Mr. Blake moved the House into Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions with regard to the N.W. Territories, to the effect that it has been made to appear that the Government has

requested a Bill to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament touching the N. W. Territories, and the opinion of Canada should have been taken before such proposed legislation. Sir George Cartier pointed out that the proposed Bill was based on an Act of the Canadian Legislature passed last session, and moved in amendment that the draft of the said proposed Act has been submitted to the House and meets its approval. Sir A. T. Galt opposed the amendment saying the real question was the propriety of the Government approaching the Imperial Parliament without the direct authority of both Houses. Mr. R. A. Harrison thought Sir George Cartier's amendment should go on to propose an Address of both Houses for confirmation of the Manitoba Act. Mr. Dorion moved another amendment to the amendment nearly in the terms of Mr. Holton's resolutions. The House went into Committee of Supply. Mr. Langevin explained the item \$6,000,000 for the Intercolonial Railway. Mr. Macdonald (Glengarry) advocated the narrow gauge such as was used on the American lines, and his views were supported by Messrs. Blanchet and Shanly. Mr. Langevin said the Govt. had had to take into consideration the Grand Trunk and other railways. The cost of changing the gauge on these would be about \$4,000,000, and under these circumstances the Govt. could not recommend the change of gauge at present. Hon. Mr. McDougall said, sooner or later the narrow gauge would be the gauge of the continent, and it would be very unwise to build the Intercolonial on the broad gauge system with the prospect of having to change it. Hon. Dr. Tupper said, on looking into the question he found no considerable saving would be effected either in construction or working by using the narrow gauge, and having the Grand Trunk and 300 miles in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it was important there should be no break of gauge between Montreal and Halifax.

March 24th—The House went again into Committee of Supply. Some discussion arose on the vote of \$40,000 for Parliament Buildings, several of the members saying the charge for heating was enormous. On the vote of \$50,000 for Library buildings, Mr. Langevin explained the roof was to be of iron and the building finished by 1st Nov. It was intended to have the grounds laid out and fenced as soon as possible, and the main tower finished. A long discussion arose on the item for \$200,000 for Post Office and other buildings in Halifax, but the item was finally carried.

March 27th—Mr. Bowell introduced a Bill for legalizing certain marriages in Ontario. In some cases, issuers of Marriage Licenses had given to parties applying a document authorizing the marriage and promising the license as soon as it could be received. In a number of these cases the licenses had not been substituted for these licenses, and there were doubts as to the validity of the marriages. Several inquiries were made of Ministers and explanations given. The House went into Committee on Premium Notes taken by Insurance Companies. Some of the members held that these notes ought not to be considered promissory notes, and the Committee, in the absence of the introducer of the Bill, rose. The adjourned debate on the North West Territory was then resumed. Mr. Dorion's amendment was lost and Sir G. E. Cartier's carried. Mr. Holton moved an amend-