

COMMONS.—Sir Geo. E. Cartier, introduced the Pacific Railway Bill, An Act to enable the Government to enter into arrangements with a company incorporated or hereafter to be incorporated for the purpose of working the Pacific Railway. After some remarks by Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, the Bill was introduced. A discussion arose on a proposed amendment to the Civil Service Act, and upon the second reading of the Dominion Notes Act.

April 29th—COMMONS.—A motion to alter the constitution of the Senate, was introduced by Mr. Mills, but after some discussion was withdrawn. The House then went into Committee of Supply, and passed the items of the Seigniorial Tenure Commission Management of the Governor General's and Secretary's Office.

April 30th—SENATE.—The only discussion was on the subject of the substitution of narrow for broad gauge on the Intercolonial Railway. Hon. Mr. Campbell insisted on the superiority of a broad gauge for great trunk lines of communication.

COMMONS.—Hon. Sir F. Hincks introduced the Budget. The debt of the Dominion in round numbers was \$80,000,000. There had been expended since Confederation on Capital expenditure \$8,081,903, while the debt has only increased \$1,977,876. The net debt had decreased during the year 1870-71 \$503,224. The Savings Banks deposits amount to about 44 millions. The revenue for the year was \$19,335,560, and the expenditure \$15,623,081, leaving a surplus of \$3,712,479. The estimated revenue for 1871-2 was over 20 millions. The estimated expenditure was \$17,040,695. The contemplated expenditure for the Pacific Railway and other public works, will probably give an increased charge of 3 millions annually. The increase of the commerce of the country is wonderful. In two years the imports and exports had increased 22 per cent. Canada has risen to the 6th place among commercial nations. No changes of tariff were proposed. Hon. Mr. Mackenzie spoke in strong terms of the course adopted in accepting the Imperial guarantee as a Fenian Indemnity. Several other members discussed various points of the Budget, but all agreed in the satisfactory financial condition of the country.

May 1st—SENATE.—The only discussion was on the expenditure for the protection of the Fisheries. A number of reports were presented, and Bills read a first time, and the House adjourned.

COMMONS.—Complaints were made by several members of the exorbitant charges made by American officials on goods and produce passing through U. S. in bond. Hon. Mr. Tilley was not very sanguine any relaxation could be obtained, but it would be done, if possible. The remainder of the day's session was occupied with a discussion upon the Superannuation Bill.

May 2nd—SENATE.—A case of superannuation was explained at some length by Hon. Mr. Mitchell.

COMMONS.—Hon. Mr. Holton brought up the appointment of Judge Johnson to Lieutenant Governorship of Manitoba, while still holding office of Judge in Quebec, and moved that it was inconsistent with the independence of the Judges. Sir Geo. Cartier explained that the appointment was merely temporary, and that an Assistant Judge had taken his place in Quebec. He contended there was no illegality in the appointment, but since the question had been raised, to quiet all doubts, the appoint-

ment would be cancelled. The remainder of the day's session was occupied with Mr. Colby's Insolvency Bill, and Mr. Joly's Superannuation Bill. Some amendments to the former were negatived, and the bill reported. Mr. Joly's bill was declared out of order after some discussion.

May 3rd—SENATE.—Very little business was before the Senate, and complaints were made by Senators on account of so little business being originated in the Senate.

COMMONS.—Sir John A. Macdonald introduced a Bill to give effect to the Treaty of Washington, (a summary of this Bill will be found under the head of Legislation of 1872.) In a very long, able and exhaustive speech, he defended the Treaty as the best that could be obtained for Canada, showing that peace with the U. S. was of greater consequence even to Canada than to England. He went over the history of the formation of the Commission, and the reasons of his acceptance of the post of High Commissioner, and went over all the provisions of the Treaty in detail. Mr. Mackenzie followed, criticising the Treaty severely, styling it a comedy of errors, contending that the Fenian claims should have been insisted on, and the free navigation of the Columbia secured. The Bill was read a first time, and the House adjourned.

May 6th—SENATE.—The Manitoba Lands Bill was read a second time. Hon. Mr. Bureau objected that extraordinary powers were conferred on local agents, which would drive immigrants away, and that no indemnity for improvements was provided. Hon. Mr. Aiken did not agree with him, but would be glad to receive the suggestions of the House.

COMMONS.—Mr. Cartwright called the attention of the House to the Fenian Raids compensation claims against the United States. He thought the course pursued by the Ministry with respect to these humiliating to the country, and a direct incentive to the Fenians to pursue their organization. In case of any future raids, we should be placed in a very bad position in respect to damages. Sir Geo. E. Cartier explained that he himself would have preferred a different course, but the case was one for the Imperial Government to settle, and they had preferred to withdraw the claim and pay the indemnity. Hon. Mr. McDougall defended the course of the Government, contending the claims were principally consequential, and therefore, could not be pressed by the Imperial Government. Mr. Harrison moved an amendment to the effect that no expression of opinion from the House was desirable. Hon. Mr. Blake moved an amendment to the amendment, to the effect that the House concurs with the view taken by the Privy Council as expressed in various despatches, which was negatived and Mr. Harrison's amendment passed on division.

May 7th—SENATE.—Hon. Mr. Mitchell, in reply to some inquiries respecting property occupied by the Intercolonial Railway offices, read a letter containing answers to the inquiries from the Secretary of the Railway Board. The Senate adjourned for a week.

COMMONS.—Sir F. Hincks gave notice that he would bring in a Bill to repeal the duties on tea and coffee. Sir John A. Macdonald introduced a Bill relating to Trades' Unions, assimilating the law to that of England. The House went into Committee on amendments to the Patent Law, which