

By Mr. Smith—From inhabitants of Essex, to the same effect.

By Mr. McCall—From inhabitants of Elgin, to the same effect.

By Hon. Mr. Cameron—From the Girls' Home, praying aid.

By Hon. Mr. Cameron—From Toronto General Hospital, with same prayer.

Mr. RYKERT brought up the third report of the committee on Standing Orders, which was received.

THE DISTRESS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON brought down a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, signed by himself, which was as follows:—

“His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommends to the consideration of the House of Assembly the propriety of granting the sum of \$5,000 for the relief of the distressed fishermen and their families, in the sister Province of Nova Scotia.

Government House, }
Jan. 21, 1868.” }

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. CARNEGIE introduced a Bill to amend the Act 61 Vic., cap. 24, entitled, an Act to consolidate the debts of the Town of Peterboro'.

Mr. McKELLAR introduced a Bill to enable the Trustees of St. Andrews Church, in the Town of Chatham, to sell certain lands held by them for the use of the congregation and for other purposes.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON introduced a Bill to legalise by law No. 116 of the Township of Bayham and certain debentures issued under the authority thereof.

Mr. PARDEE introduced a Bill to authorise the Crescent Petroleum Association of New York and Canada to hold and convey certain lands in the Township of Enniskillen.

A SCENE—MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Mr. COYNE introduced a Bill respecting Division Courts. In doing so he explained that he would ask the House to waive the usual practice in reference to the Bill, and allow it to be referred to a select committee before being printed, as by so doing a good deal of economy would have been exercised. He would therefore move that the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that could not be done. The House ought first to see the Bill in print and be put in possession of the principle of the measure. He would say that there appeared to him an unusual desire on the part of honourable members to take out of the hands of the Government that responsibility which attached to the Government at all times. The laws of the country ought not to be legislated upon—no alterations should be made in them, at all events—without asking the Government. Several Bills, mostly of an important nature, had already been introduced in this way, without any previous consultation with the Government;