

amendment, pointing out the possible difficulties and losses from detention while notice was being sent to the Minister of Marine. The telegraph to British Columbia, for example, might be down and much valuable time lost before orders could be had from Ottawa. There should be a local officer to inspect these vessels and act on discretion.

Hon. Messrs McLELAN and WILMOT also pointed out the possibility of abuse of the power of stopping a vessel. The latter thought it was too much to entrust to any man. He protested against this hasty legislation.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL saw no danger in the clause; if a vessel was unfit for sea, somebody should have power to stop her. Then, no better person could be selected than the Minister of Marine, over whom Parliament had control. In case of hardship there was recourse against the Government. A collector of customs or other local officer was not responsible to Parliament, and might use his power improperly for one local reason or another.

Hon. Mr. WARK objected to the lien on vessels, proposed to be given workmen and others, to the possible detriment of creditors abroad.

The clause was carried on a division.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU'S amendment was accepted as the 55th clause of the bill.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said he desired to consult the Minister of Marine on some of the clauses, and would move the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. ODELL suggested consultation as to an amendment respecting the cost of surveys.

On motion of Hon. Mr. AIKINS, the bill to incorporate the Oshawa Board of Trade, was read a second time.

INTEREST AND USURY IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACK moved the second reading of the bill from the Commons, respecting interest and usury in Nova Scotia. He briefly explained its principal provisions, saying it enlarged the rate of interest to be taken in that province, doing away with the penalty for excess. The interest, when no rate was fixed, should hereafter be six per cent. The second clause discriminated between the classes of loans, real estate and personality. For the former, seven per cent. might be received: and for the latter, a more precarious risk, ten per cent. The third provided that in an action on contract, the defendant might have the interest reduced to a legal rate. In Nova Scotia there had been a penalty for a high-

er rate for loans than six per cent; but borrowers and lenders evaded the law, which had the effect of driving a large amount of money out of the country, for investment. Though the bill proposed might occasion individual hardship now and then, it would be generally beneficial. Money, like other things, should be left to the regulation of supply and demand.

Hon. Mr. ODELL seconded the motion, which was carried. Bill referred to committee.

INSOLVENCY.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the bill to continue the Insolvent Act of 1869. He said last session the Insolvency Laws were repealed in another place (the Commons) but happily, owing to the Conservative feeling of this House, and the usefulness of this House, [hear, hear, and laughter,] the bill was arrested, and the country spared the repeal in question; and now we found the wisdom of our course recognized in another place, and a bill introduced proposing to prolong these laws another year. He thought this was a tribute to the wisdom of this House, which might congratulate itself on its course last session.

After some remarks from hon. members,

The bill was referred to Committee of the whole, and reported without amendment.

GAS AND METERS.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS moved the second reading of the Gas and Meters bill. He explained that it designed a system of inspection. Very great complaints were frequently made by the consumers of gas; in the first place that it was very impure, and in the second that demands were made for gas not really consumed. The bill provided the meters should be properly inspected and stamped, and the gas itself subjected to a test.

Hon. Mr. ODELL—How are the inspectors to be appointed?

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—By the Governor in Council.

Hon. Mr. RYAN—I think this is another measure for which the Senate deserves some credit. The hon. member for Grandville (Mr. Letellier de St. Just) and myself called attention to the importance of the establishment of a system of inspection of gas meters, and I am glad the idea has been acted upon. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. AIKINS admitted the fact of the credit due the hon. gentleman, and the hon. member for Victoria (Ryan) in particular, not only in regard to this, but the