

Mr. Oliver said his object was to ascertain the exact quantity of beer manufactured in each brewery, as there was a suspicion entertained that the breweries in the Province did not return one-fourth of the quantity manufactured—thus depriving the country of a large revenue.

Sir John A. Macdonald thought the honourable gentleman should go further and state on what reasonable grounds that suspicion was based. In England they were so very careful in such matters that not even a member of the government was allowed to know the income returned by the Rothschilds, Baring, etc. It was every man's interest to keep the knowledge of his business to himself.

Mr. Holton thought the distilleries should be included in the motion, in order that it might be seen what was the proportion between the grain received into these establishments and the product of grain in beer and spirits. It was a matter of notoriety that gross frauds were committed both in respect to beer and spirits, and the object of the motion was, he presumed, to get data for ascertaining the facts as to this, and not to attack particular establishments.

Sir John A. Macdonald said he would have no objection to give from each brewery and distillery, distinguished by numbers, the amount of grain received and amounts of excise paid.

Mr. Mackenzie thought a return of the nature indicated by the Minister of Justice would not answer the purpose. In a circular which had been addressed to the members by a firm in the West—Grant & Co., Hamilton—some extraordinary statements were made. They said that Mr. Brunel, the chief officer of excise, told them that the Government did not collect more than one-third of the duty. They said, too, that of the large quantity of lager beer manufactured, not one-eighth part paid the duty.

Hon. Mr. Howland considered a return prepared in the way suggested by the Minister of Justice would serve every necessary end. He was quite certain the assertion as to the alleged statement of Mr. Brunel was incorrect.

Mr. Young said it appeared to him the whole object of the motion would be lost unless the name of the brewer and distiller was given. If the particular establishment

was not named, they could not compare the amount returned with the amount of business done.

Mr. Oliver said he should like to amend his motion, so as to include distilleries as well as breweries, and with that view would allow it to stand for the present.

DEFENCE OF THE PROVINCE

Mr. Mackenzie in the absence of Mr. Blake, moved for copies of despatches and correspondence between the Imperial and Canadian Governments touching the defence of the country.

Sir John A. MacDonald said that communications between the two Governments were of a confidential nature, and therefore could not be given at present. However, before any action should be taken in the matter of defence such papers as could be submitted would be sent down.

The motion was allowed to stand over.

COLLECTION OF CUSTOMS AND HARBOUR DUES

Mr. Lawson moved for a number of returns respecting the collection of Customs and Harbour tolls.—Carried.

SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Hon. Mr. Smith moved for returns showing the salaries of Post-masters and Post Office Clerks, Treasurers and Deputy Treasurers and collectors of Customs and Inland Revenue and Excise in the Dominion of Canada, and also the officers and employees on the Government Railways in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.—carried.

SECRET SERVICE MONEY

Mr. Mackenzie, in the absence of Mr. Blake, moved for a return showing the amount remaining unexpended on the 1st day of July last, of the sums granted during last session of the Parliament of the Province of Canada, for secret service; and, also, of the amount remaining unexpended at this date.—Carried.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILROAD

Mr. Robitaille moved an address for copies of all correspondence, etc., relating to the Intercolonial Railroad since the conference held at Quebec on the subject of the Union of the Provinces.—Carried.