

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Tuesday, May 13th, Mr. Jamieson gave notice that he would move the resolution. It was taken up on Wednesday, May 20th. Mr. Scriver being absent through sickness the resolution was seconded by Hon. D. C. Fraser of Guysboro', N.S. The debate was adjourned. It was resumed on the following afternoon and continued at the evening sitting of the House. Mr. C. H. Macintosh moved in amendment that all the words after word "That" in the motion be struck out and the following words added instead thereof:—

"The numerous petitions presented to this and preceding Parliaments, praying for the enactment of a Prohibitory Liquor Law, indicate the desire upon the part of a large section of the population that the question should receive serious consideration from the people's representatives.

"This House is of opinion that, as such petitions as well as reports made by various Committees of Parliament, allege that the social, moral and civil standing of the subject is imperiled by the existence of such trade in intoxicating liquors, immediate steps should be taken to obtain full and reliable information upon all practical and financial details connected with the question.

"That this House is fully cognizant of the immense loss of revenue which would, for the time being, follow the enactment of Prohibitory measures, not alone to the Dominion Exchequer, but to the various Provinces of the Union, and the possibility of complications between the Provincial and Federal authorities consequent upon such reduction of financial resources.

"That this House, whilst desirous of moving in the direction of the amelioration of evils complained of, is of opinion that any legislation should be so safeguarded as not to too suddenly disturb the revenue of the country or the vested interests claiming compensation.

"In view of these considerations, the House is of opinion that a Select Committee should be appointed to report upon all the details involved in the subject, more particularly:

1. The annual loss to the Federal Exchequer;
2. The amount invested in the manufacture of intoxicating liquors;
3. The amount necessary to compensate those now embarked in the manufacture and sale of liquors, should such a policy be deemed expedient;
4. The amount of annual loss to each Provincial Exchequer;
5. The amount of annual loss to each municipality throughout the Dominion;
6. An estimate of the probable amount requisite by taxation in lieu of license fees in each Province and Federal Excise and Customs duties;

Together with all information obtainable touching the present cost of maintaining the various institutions for the suppression and punishment of crime throughout the Dominion.

Said Committee to be composed of Messrs. Coatsworth, Curran, Davies, Ferguson, (Leeds and Grenville), Girouard, Gordon, Hazen, Jamieson, Mills (Annapolis), Mills, (Bothwell), Prefontaine, Ross (Lisgar), Scriver, Taylor, Wallace and Wood (Westmoreland); to report at the earliest possible period."

Mr. Taylor moved in amendment to the amendment, That all the words after the word "that" in the original motion, and all the words of the proposed amendment be struck out, and [the following words added instead thereof:

"This House renews the expression of its opinion, made in preceding Parlia-