

April 30, 1874

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 30, 1874

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 3 p.m.

Prayers

CLOSED SESSION

The House sat until 3.50 p.m. in closed session.

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PETITIONS

A number of petitions praying for a prohibitory liquor law were presented.

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EXPORT DUTY ON SAW LOGS

Mr. CHARLTON presented the report of the Committee on the export duty on saw logs, etc., as follows: That the export duty upon logs, shingle bolts, and stave bolts, imposed under Schedule F of the Tariff Act of 1868, Cap. 44, of 31 Vic., is a tax upon settlers and owners of timber, who are prevented by its operation from selling in the best market.

That the export duty, while reducing the market value of logs and bolts for the benefit of mill owners, does not promote the manufacture of lumber, shingles and staves at the principal Lake Erie ports, and at many other ports in Canada.

That a large proportion of the export of pine and oak logs is long timber, entering into the same class of consumption as does the square pine and square oak export of Canada.

That exporters of round pine and oak from Lake Erie ports compete in the American markets with the Michigan timber dealers, to whom the Canadian export duty affords a considerable protection.

That since the imposition of export duty, a large amount of capital embarked in the round timber trade has been withdrawn from Canada and invested in Michigan.

That the saw-mill interest of Canada has, in the opinion of your Committee, been but slightly benefited by the export duty, and that whatever benefit the export duty has conferred upon the saw-mill interest has been given at the direct expense of settlers and owners of timber.

That the export duty, reduced to an *ad valorem* rate, would be on the average 40 per cent on stave bolts, 30 per cent on oak logs, 20 per cent on pine logs, 25 per cent on spruce logs, and 25 per cent on shingle bolts.

That the export duty is an extreme protective measure and partially, at least, inoperative as such, and that the burdens imposed by it are unequally distributed, falling as they do entirely upon settlers and other owners of timber.

Mr. CURRIER called attention to the fact that the Committee were not unanimous in making that report, several of them dissenting.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF

Mr. BUNSTER presented the report of the Committee on the British Columbia tariff.

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RETURN

Hon. Mr. LAIRD presented a return of copies of correspondence relating to the disposal of barracks property in the town of Chatham.

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ESCHEATS AND FORFEITURES

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE presented the return demanded by the House for a copy of the Act on escheats and forfeitures passed by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.

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ONTARIO SAVINGS SOCIETY

Mr. WALKER introduced a bill to extend the powers of the Ontario Savings and Investment Society.

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CREDITORS OF RAILWAYS

Mr. McDONNELL introduced a bill to facilitate arrangements between Railway Companies and their creditors.

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TRINITY HOUSE OF MONTREAL

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE introduced a bill to amend the Act relating to the Trinity House and Harbour Commission of Montreal.

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BANK AMENDMENT BILLS

Mr. LAFLAMME moved for leave to introduce a bill to amend the Act respecting Banks and Banking in regard to the liability of shareholders. He explained that it was to do away with the double liability provision.