

they are afraid to buy a bullock this year, and although I am largely interested in the trade, I will not buy this spring.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

DUTIES OF CUSTOMS—EXPORT DUTY ON LOGS.

Mr. CHARLTON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 9) further to amend the Acts respecting the duties of Customs. He said: The object of the Bill is to repeal certain clauses of the Customs Act relating to the imposition of export duties. The law imposing those duties was first enacted in chapter 33, section 6, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, and in schedule E of the same. Schedule E was subsequently amended by section 3 of chapter 39 of the Statutes of 1887, and in 1888, section 1 of chapter 15 gave the Governor in Council power to increase those duties to \$3, to reduce them, to repeal them, to reimpose them, and to keep the trade in a great state of uncertainty and fear as to the course that the Governor in Council might be pleased to take with respect to this very disturbing proceeding. From my own connection with the lumber trade, I am well aware that this power in the hands of the Governor in Council has had a depressing and unfavourable influence on the trade, and whatever may be the question as to the propriety of imposing export duties, the last section of this Bill, which says that no further action shall be taken by the Governor in Council, with respect to export duties, without the consent of Parliament having first been obtained, is a section which must commend itself to the good judgment of every business man. If the export duties which have been removed under the statutory provision of the McKinley Act are to be reimposed, the matter should be fully discussed, and the House should be made aware of the reasons for the imposition of those duties. There was an occasion when the Government increased the duties from \$2 to \$3 per thousand. They speedily found they had taken a step that was an imprudent one, and they receded from the position they had taken, which was an illustration of the point I desire to make, that the consideration of this important question is one which should be had in open day, should be discussed here on the floor of this House, and the reasons for the imposition of those duties should be fully canvassed and considered before action was taken. For these reasons, the Bill proposes that the clause of the Customs Act authorizing the imposition of export duties should be repealed, and that no action on this matter should in future be taken without the consent of Parliament having first been obtained.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

N. W. T.—DUAL LANGUAGE.

Mr. McCARTHY moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 10) further to amend the Act respecting the North-west Territories. He said: I may explain that this is the Bill which I introduced last year. It deals with two subjects. It proposes to repeal the clause in the North-west Territories Act by which separate schools are imposed upon the Territories, and by which no discretion is given to the Council of the North-west Territories respecting education, and in place of that clause to give the power to deal with the subject of education untrammelled and uncontrolled, and as the North-west Council may see fit. It also proposes to do away with the remnant of what is known as the dual language clause. It will be in the remembrance of members of this House who sat in the last Parliament of 1890 that a discussion took place with respect to the repeal of the clause as it then stood, and the result of the discussion was a compromise, by which a portion of the clause was repealed, or rather power was given to the Council of the North-west Territories to repeal a portion of the clause, but the remaining portion stands as it was in the original Act. The original section imposed duality in language in four matters: first, with respect to publication of the laws; second, with respect to proceedings in the courts; third, with respect to proceedings in the Council; and fourth, with respect to the printing and publishing of those proceedings. As to the proceedings in the Council, this power was given by the Act of 1891, in pursuance of the arrangement made across the floor in the preceding session; provided, however, that after the next general election for the Legislative Assembly such Assembly may, by ordinance or otherwise, regulate its proceedings in the matter of recording and publishing the same, and the said regulation shall be embodied in the proceedings which shall be forthwith published by the Lieutenant Governor, in conformity with the law, and shall afterward have full force and effect. The House will observe that the power given to the Legislative Assembly was merely with respect to its own proceedings, and the other portion of the law still remained in force: first, that proceedings in the courts might be conducted in either language, and, second, that the ordinances, passed under this provision, shall be published in both languages. As I have often said before in making this motion, or in bringing in a bill to repeal this clause, I do not do it with any feeling of hostility to my French-Canadian fellow-subjects. I believe, Sir, that the interests of this country will be best served, when the distinction between these nationalities is done away with: at all events, that so far as the North-west is concerned, we certainly should not introduce a measure which is calculated and ap-