

SENATE.

OTTAWA, Wednesday, March 14, 1906.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (A) An Act to amend the Supreme and Exchequer Courts Act.—(Hon. Mr. Scott.)

Bill (B) An Act further to amend the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.—(Hon. Mr. Scott.)

THE STRIKING COMMITTEE.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved :

That, pursuant to rule 79, the following senators be appointed a committee of selection to nominate the senators to serve on the several standing committees during the present session, namely:—The Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, K.C.M.G., and the Honourable Messieurs Miller, Power, Ferguson, Gibson, Watson, Loughheed, Bélique, and Casgrain (de Lanaudière), and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

The motion was agreed to.

CAPE BRETON PILOTS RETIRING FUND.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD (C.B.) moved :

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General; praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before the Senate, all correspondence between the Pilot Commissioners, the secretary of the Board of Pilot Commissioners, or any of the officials of that board, at Sydney, Cape Breton, and the Department of Marine and Fisheries, or any of the officials of the said department, showing : 1. The amount paid into the pilots' retiring fund in each year, from December 31st, 1896, to December 31st, 1905, respectively. 2nd. The amount paid into the pilots' widows' and orphans' relief fund from December 31st, 1896, to December 31st, 1905, respectively. 3rd. The disposition made of the said funds in each year during the above-mentioned period; the amount on hand on December 31st, 1905; the interest it bears; where it is deposited; the security for its safety for the benefit of the widows and the orphans of pilots. 4th. The amount on hand in these funds, respectively, on December 31st, 1896. Also all other correspondence, if any, bearing on this matter.

He said. I wish to say a few words as regards the matter of this motion. In 1896, the Pilot Commission of North Sydney was changed and a new commission appointed

The by-laws and regulations of the pilot board at Sydney and North Sydney provided a fund for the payment of retired pilots and for the widows and orphans of the pilots. It is said that the fund at that time amounted to \$4,700. On the change being made in the Pilot Commission, the new board ordered the secretary of the old board to hand the money over to a new secretary or a new treasurer. The pilots alleged that they have been unable to obtain an account of that money from that day to this. The widows and orphans of the pilots entitled to a portion of that money have not yet been able to secure any of it. It is said that it has mysteriously disappeared. The secretary of the Pilotage Commission now refuses to give any account or explanation of that fact. The pilots hold the old secretary, to whom they paid the money, responsible for this amount of four thousand seven hundred dollars. The matter is causing a great deal of talk among the pilots and their friends and others in that district. It appears by the press that they have been unable to secure any satisfaction from the Board of Pilot Commissioners, or from the secretary of that board, and they have been unable to take any legal steps to secure this money. They have applied to the local premier; they have applied to the attorney general, but no steps have been taken to secure it. They have been informed that it was necessary for the pilots to get incorporated before they could bring a suit in the Supreme Court for the recovery of this money. For these reasons I wish to move for all the correspondence relating to the matter. I wish also to read what the local press of Sydney has to say on that point. The Sydney 'Post' says :

WHERE IS THE MONEY ?

It is evidently impossible to obtain any information regarding the missing relief and retiring fund, which the pilots of Sydney Harbour gathered together by hard labour extending over a period of years. The money was intrusted to an official of the Pilotage Commission. It amounted to about \$4,700. It has mysteriously disappeared. The commission have been appealed to and they are dumb. The Crown prosecutor has taken no action as far as we can ascertain. The attorney general has not moved in the matter. The Department of Marine is deaf to all appeals. The members of parliament for the country have pursued a course of masterly inactivity in this regard. The premier of Nova Scotia has not time to give his attorney general a hint of it. The culprit goes free. The pilots and their heirs suffer and there is no redress.