

city bills, just before the house, called attention to the fact that the alterations in the city charter had been published by order. On reference to the paper he held in his hand he found the alteration alluded to by the hon. member for Inverness. The alterations were very trivial, however, on the whole. The police regulations must have been contained in a separate bill, for neither he nor any other member of the committee had any recollection that it was submitted at all to them.

Some remarks were made as to the propriety of limiting the time for the introduction of private bills, in order to expedite the business of the House, and Mr. Archibald stated that he would probably move a resolution the next day in reference to the matter.

EXTENSION OF THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table the report of the Medical Superintendent relative to the extension of that building, accompanied by an estimate by Mr. Sterling, the architect, of the probable expense of the same. Referred to committee on humane institutions.

THE LABRADOR FISHERIES.

Mr. KAULBACK said:—My attention has been called by parties prosecuting the fisheries to a matter which honorable gentlemen will remember, was brought to their notice by petitions and otherwise, at the last session of this Legislature. The petitioners prayed us to take proper steps to relieve them from what they conceived was an unlawful tax demanded by the Government of Newfoundland. The Government of that Province has claimed, and exercised the right of demanding duties from the Fishermen of this Province on their salt and other outfits used in prosecuting that branch of industry—on the coast of Labrador, between Anse Sablon and the Hudson Straits. The petitions were referred to the Committee on the Fisheries; and I have before me their report on this subject, which was received by this House. They reported that in their opinion the exaction of such duties was unjust, and recommended that the Government of this Province place themselves in communication with the Government of Newfoundland, and represent to them the injustice of such exactions from our fishermen—and failing to have the grievance remedied, that they be requested to bring it to the notice of the Colonial Secretary. Our Fisheries—so important a branch of our public industry to the wealth and revenue of this Province—are largely prosecuted by the people of the county I have the honor to represent, on the Labrador coast. They believe the tax to be unjust, and for that reason some of them have successfully resisted the exaction. Too much consideration cannot be given to a matter of such importance to us as our fisheries. Under the Reciprocity Treaty the exclusive right of these colonies to the coast fisheries was most summarily and unjustly taken away without any direct benefits being given to our fishermen for the loss they directly sustained. Should another Treaty be entered into, it is to be hoped that we will see to it that our fisheries will be better cared for. Our Cod fisheries on the Labrador coast proved, I am sorry to say, a failure last season, in consequence of which our vessels returned with the greater part of their outfits, on which they paid duties

to the Newfoundland Government, and it may be expected that that Government will levy another tax on the very same outfits the next season. This fact shows, in a striking manner, the injustice of taxing outfits which are not consumed in Newfoundland or its dependencies. It is to be earnestly hoped this grievance will meet with redress; and is the more important at this time that we should have this misunderstanding settled with our sister province, before we are drawn into the strife, which must unavoidably occur, on the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, in maintaining inviolate our fishing rights, from the encroachments of the fishermen of the neighbouring Republic. This House and Government must feel the importance of the present question; and on this, as on all matters, effecting the rights and privileges of our hardy fishermen will give, I most earnestly hope, full consideration to their interests. Mr. Speaker, I must ask the Government to lay on the table of this House, all communications with the Government of Newfoundland, and the Colonial Office, on this question of the rights and privileges of our Fishermen on the Labrador shore.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—Shortly after the adjournment last year the Report of the Committee was communicated to the Government of Newfoundland by the administration. And a correspondence ensued which will be laid on the table. The government of Newfoundland insisted on the right of levying these duties, and alleged that the fishermen of that colony who resorted to the waters of the Labrador were taxed for the same articles. They also stated that the matter had been referred to the Colonial Secretary who had decided as to the abstract right of the government and Legislature to impose such duties. I am disposed, however, notwithstanding this high authority, to think that the exaction is hardly justified—that the people of this country cannot be taxed for articles which do not go into the consumption of Newfoundland. We would have just as much right to go on board American fishermen at Port Hood or Plaster Cove and levy a duty on their supplies.

Mr. LOCKE—There is no doubt that the government of Newfoundland have a right to tax our trade, but not our fishermen. It appears they treat our fishermen as traders which is manifestly unjustifiable. I think that the question should be fully explained to the British government.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I understood that some short time since a respectable mercantile house interested in the matter intended to submit the question to eminent legal authority in England and that they would furnish the information they obtained to the government here. That, however, has not yet been done.

Mr. LOCKE—The waters of one colony are always free to the inhabitants of another colony.

Mr. MILLER—During a visit I paid to Newfoundland last summer, I had an opportunity of discussing this matter with leading men of that colony. I had several conversations with the mercantile house, to which the hon. gentleman has referred, and learned that the ground taken by merchants of England was that as Labrador was not represented in the legislature of Newfoundland, and as the administration of justice was not provided for, the govern-