

PREVENTION OF BRIBERY

Hon. Mr. MORRIS introduced an Act for the prevention of corrupt practices in relation to the collection of revenue. He explained that under the present law that the only penalty for bribing a Revenue officer was a civil suit for the collection of 100 pounds. This sum was altogether inadequate, and the bill he now introduced was to provide that such offences should be punishable as misdemeanors, both the officer bribed and the person corrupting him to be liable to punishment.

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OWEN SOUND HARBOUR DUES

Mr. SNIDER moved that Bill No. 22 be discharged, and the motion being carried, introduced a Bill to extend the Act authorizing the imposition and collection of harbour dues, by the town of Owen Sound.

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EXPENSES OF THE FENIAN RAID

A formal message from His Excellency was read, recommending the expediency of indemnifying the Government for having authorized the issue of a special warrant for \$200,000 to provide for the defence of the Dominion in repelling the Fenian invasion of last May.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole to consider the relevant resolutions. He would take occasion to explain with respect to the resolutions of last year, involving the expenditure of money, that he had looked at the Act during recess, and notwithstanding the objection of the hon. member for Châteauguay, he did not find that it was necessary to precede the resolution by a message from His Excellency; still, he was bound to admit that it was hardly possible in cases of this kind to proceed with too great caution. He had, therefore, adopted the usual formality.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON was quite sure that if the act did not specify the mode of proceeding, the spirit of it was that the form should be observed. Its object was to tie the hands of the House against any unauthorized expenditure. He, therefore, thought that when a large amount was to be expended, and in this case he admitted, necessarily expended, the utmost solemnity should be observed.

The resolution was read a first time.

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BANKS AND BANKING

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions

on the subject of savings banks, and also of the issue and redemption of Dominion notes. In making this motion, he wished to observe that His Excellency had commanded him to inform the House that he (the Governor General) had cognizance of this motion. Before Tuesday the resolutions would be printed in both languages, and in the hands of hon. members.

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THE CENSUS ACT

Hon. Mr. DUNKIN moved the House into Committee on the Bill to amend the Census Act, **Hon. Mr. GRAY** in the Chair.

In reply to the Hon. Mr. Holton,

Hon. Mr. DUNKIN said the majority of the enumerators would finish their work in about three weeks from the commencement of the enumeration. There were some few districts with small scattered populations in which the census could not be taken before mid-summer. Of course, the moment the Government should get returns from the greater part of the country, they would commence to combine and count. There would be no delay on the part of the commissioners. The compilation would be pushed forward with the utmost despatch, and the work would be completed long before the next meeting of the House.

On reading the eighth clause,

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North) said the provisions of this clause empowered the Governor General to render valid anything that should be done under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture. Why have any other provision at all? It did seem to him, in practice and reason and in every point of view as a most *omnium gatherum* kind of provision. He really thought it would save printing and trouble to strike out all the rest of the bill but this one clause.

Hon. Mr. DUNKIN said he had explained the object of this clause when he introduced the bill. The hon. member for Lambton had expressed his assent to it. The reason was this, in the numerous districts and sub-districts, it was hardly possible to avoid mistakes, and the whole purport of this bill was to permit the correction of such errors without issuing a new proclamation.

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North) said the only objection to it was that serious questions might be involved, which should be dealt with by proclamation in the usual way. He had very great confidence in the hon. gentleman opposite, but the public outside might have a different opinion and he thought it was desirable in this census matter that everything should be done open and above board that the people might see and know what was going on. In Manitoba it was charged that the census had been taken there under local official sanction, and very improperly. Sections where nobody existed were declared as having hundreds of