

have read that it is frequently put in beer merely for the purpose of inducing thirst. If it is not essential to the production of these liquors, I would prefer that the words, "if in excessive quantity," should be struck out. The clause as it stands is very vague.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I believe common salt is used.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the argument of the hon. member for West Durham is the best answer that could be given to his captious remark, when I suggested that power ought to be retained to regulate this schedule by the Governor in Council. I suggested that if experience showed certain articles to be required to be used in the manufacture, the Governor in Council ought to have power to add them to the list, but if not needed, to exempt them. The hon. member for West Durham now raises the same objection. He intimates he is not settled in his mind whether these articles are or are not used. As I understand him, he speaks in an indefinite way, as though we were not in possession of the knowledge whether they were or not used, for the legitimate manufacture of the articles; if they are not, they ought to be exempt; if they are, or it is found in the future they will require to be, through any improvements in the manufacture, power should be given to add them to the list.

Mr. BLAKE. My argument applied only to common salt, and I did not state that other hon. members were equally ill-informed as I am on the subject. Parliament is legislating on the subject, and we ought all to be well informed before legislating. I was asking for information. I dare say some hon. gentleman connected with the trade could tell us something about it. I am sure the hon. gentleman has a colleague who could tell us at once whether salt is necessary.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Strike out the words "in an excessive quantity."

Mr. DAVIES. Before the Committee rises, the hon. gentleman will do well to consider the sub-section of section 2, brought to his notice by the hon. member for West Durham. Under it, any man who sells any innocuous mixture, such as coffee and chickory, is liable to a penalty. Chickory is often added to coffee, not for the reason stated in the proviso, but because many people like it, and if a man sells chickory and coffee and proclaims that he does so, he should not be liable to a penalty. That sub-section does not meet the case, and provision should be made to meet it.

Progress reported, Committee to sit again.

SUPPLY.

The House then again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.

180	{	Observatory, Toronto	\$5,250 00
		do Kingston	500 00
		do Montreal	500 00
		do New Brunswick	1,500 00

Mr. WELDON. What was the change at St John?

Mr. McLELAN. The services of St. John and Fredericton were combined in the city of St. John, effecting a saving of \$1,000.

Mr. WELDON. What is the salary of the gentleman in charge?

Mr. McLELAN. The same as last year.

Mr. WELDON. What was the saving in making the change and taking the observatory from an efficient man in St. John and putting it in the hands of an inefficient man?

Mr. McLELAN. It was reported that observations were necessary at other points in New Brunswick, and the sum voted was all employed under the arrangements then made.

Mr. BLAKE.

but a saving was effected by combining certain services in the city of St. John.

Mr. WELDON. What is the saving in St. John?

Mr. McLELAN. I cannot give the exact figures—from \$500 to \$1,000.

Mr. WELDON. The gentleman who had been in charge there had been for twenty-five years making these observations, and the man who was put in his place was not fit for it. A man had to be sent from Toronto to instruct him. What was the cost of sending the person from Toronto to instruct the person now in charge? As regards the gentleman who had previously charge of this observatory, he had been since fifty years taking observations with regard to the weather, in St. John, and his statistics were very valuable. It was a matter in which he was much interested; he did the work most faithfully, and I believe would almost perform it for nothing. The result is, that the service is not so well performed. The proper number of observations are not secured, and I believe the wind diagram is not published at all in St. John. It is published at Fredericton, and that is very valuable, but in St. John, on the Bay of Fundy, it is much more important. I understand that the wind diagrams are published only at Parry Sound, Presqu' Isle, London, Port Stanley, Toronto, Halifax, Fredericton, Sydney and Yarmouth, and that the Government is not satisfied with the way the service is conducted now.

Mr. McLELAN. The Government is perfectly satisfied with the performance of the work at St. John, and the hon. gentleman has, I think, asked for returns in reference to the expenses of Mr. Gordon's trip to St. John, which will be furnished him. The hon. gentleman will observe in the Report that the service at St. John is spoken of as being consolidated, and at a considerable saving of expense. I saw Mr. Gordon not long ago, and he reports that the services have been very well performed at that place and no complaints have reached me in any way regarding it. Mr. Murdoch was a good officer and performed the service very satisfactory, but it was thought unnecessary to have Mr. Murdoch and Mr. Patterson performing the two separate services and that it could be well done by one gentleman at a saving of expense.

Mr. WELDON. No application was made, I believe, to Mr. Murdoch, to reduce the expenditure of his office, and at the place where the observations were made by him, great facilities were afforded him, and he was dismissed without any explanation, and without any application to see whether the expense of his office could not be reduced. Mr. Hutchinson really knew nothing about the matter. Did I understand the Minister of Marine to say that it was on the recommendation of Mr. Gordon?

Mr. McLELAN. It was proposed to have observations taken at Sackville as an important point, and a consultation was held with him as to the means by which the funds could be provided for that service, and the suggestion was made that there should be a combination of the two services at St. John, and that in that combination a sufficient saving could be effected to provide for the service at Sackville. I think I overstated the amount of the reduction at St. John. It was not so much as \$1,000.

Mr. WELDON. I should doubt very much if it reaches \$500. The whole expense, in Mr. Murdoch's time, did not reach \$1,000, I think.

189. Grant for Meteorological Observations, including instruments and cost of telegraphing weather warnings \$48,000 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Will the hon. gentleman inform us how many stations have been established in Manitoba and the North-West Territories?