

might as well be abolished at once, for in many instances it will be really inefficient. I think that the latitude asked for by the Government is reasonable and that it should be granted.

Mr. McLENNAN. I think it is a mistake to suppose that this police force bears any resemblance to the Mounted Police or any other system of preserving the peace that we ordinarily use. This is a special service for the protection of a special interest, and that object can only be attained by placing the fullest powers in the hands of the Government to apply this force in any measure and at any time when it happens to be required, to determine on some fixed body that we would be able to incite into an active and efficient force. Parliament would destroy that efficiency and it would fail to meet the very pressing necessities for which this force is brought into use, that is to preserve the peace in the harbor of Montreal at a time when a Ship-laborers' Union is creating a disturbance and requires to be dealt with promptly. It is not a charge upon the public; the special object of the Act is to legalize and bring within the operation of the law this necessary provision for the protection of this interest, and unless it is applied as it is proposed, and in which it has been proposed by the hon. Minister after advising with the parties concerned, it will simply fail of its effect.

Mr. McLELAN moved that clause 4 be struck out.

Mr. McLENNAN. Before this is done, I would expostulate with the Minister. Every word I have said applies generally to the character of the force and is an argument that the superintendent of this force should have some power of acting. I am told that when there are thirty men in the force on duty in the harbor of Montreal, taking from that number the men who are on duty at the station, and those required in other ways, there is about one man per mile left on active duty. The only way to increase the efficiency of this force and to overawe those who organize for evil is to give some magisterial authority to the superintendent of the force. I do not know that it is an extraordinary provision. I presume the arguments used when this clause was inserted in the Bill were sufficient to convince the Minister of its necessity; I think they exist still, although perhaps the power proposed to be given is perhaps too great, but some power should be given to the superintendent to act judicially.

Amendment agreed to.

On clause 8,

Mr. BLAKE. The Act 31 Victoria, respecting the Harbor Police, which is repealed by this Act, provides for further levying of a tonnage tax; but it provided further for the application of that tax towards the maintenance of the Harbor River Police. Now the hon. gentlemen proposes simply that these tonnage dues shall simply form part of the general revenue.

Mr. McLELAN. It is the same for the old Act.

Mr. BLAKE. That part of the old Act which provides that the tax shall be applied specifically for the keeping up of the Harbor and River Police is entirely struck out. My opinion is that the tax should be adequate to the maintenance of the force, and should apply to the maintenance of the force, and that a return should be brought down to Parliament every year, as at present, showing the amount of the tax, what the expenses of the force have been, and how the balance stands.

Mr. McLELAN. The old practice of allowing the money to be drawn from the Receiver-General by the proper officer no longer obtains, but money is voted in the usual way in the Estimates. The return made every year will show the amount of money received, and other transactions.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not advocate a return to the old custom of drawing the money from the Receiver-General's

hands; but what I object to is that the old plan of specifically applying that tax to the keeping up of the force is done away with by this Bill.

Mr. McLELAN. I have no objection to adding to the 10th clause, words to the effect that a return should be made to Parliament.

Amendment agreed to.

On clause 8,

Mr. McCUAIG. It often happens that the Upper Canada mail steamers arrive at Montreal about the time that the steamer for Quebec is leaving, and passengers and so forth are simply transferred from one boat to the other. I wish to know if the Upper Canadian boat has to pay the harbor dues in such a case.

Mr. McLELAN. There is no change affecting that point in the present Bill.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

HARBOR OF ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK:

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved that the House resolve itself into Committee to consider certain proposed resolutions to provide for the appointment of certain Commissioners for the improvement and management of the harbor of St. John, New Brunswick.

Motion agreed to; and House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. These resolutions, except the name, are similar to the resolutions submitted to the House the other day respecting the Harbor Commission of Three Rivers, and the Bill which will follow the adoption of these resolutions is based on the Bill which was then passed. There will be five Commissioners, as in the other case: one will be appointed by the City Council of St. John, another by the Board of Trade of St. John, and the three others, including the chairman, by the Government.

Mr. ANGLIN. I, myself, have for a long time been opposed to the proposal to place the harbor of St. John under a Commission, because I do not believe such a change in the management of that harbor is either necessary or desirable. Our harbor is now very fairly managed. We have ample accommodation at present for all the trade of the port. There is no necessity for the erection of new wharves or for any very extensive improvements in order to enable us to do all the business we at present have or are likely to have for several years. This proposal, in different aspects, has been talked of in the city of St. John from time to time, but the talk has been confined usually to small circles. The Board of Trade is a very small body indeed, having on its list of members comparatively few of the merchants and business men of the city, and a yet smaller number attend its meetings. The largest number that ever attended its meetings could easily be accommodated in a very small room. The members of the Common Council, on the other hand, have had their own peculiar views on this subject. They have been desirous of disposing of a quantity of corporation property lying contiguous to the harbor, and of getting control of the money to be raised by selling this property to the Commissioners. Should this project be realized, it would be necessary to state that the moneys advanced by the Government shall really be appropriated to benefitting St. John—that the money shall not be left at the absolute disposal of the Common Council—that it shall not have discretionary power as to the manner in which the money so raised shall be invested. What the present project is, strange to say, the people of St. John do not know, never having been consulted. Only the few promoters of this scheme know anything of