

March 20, 1871

Morris) thought it was very desirable that the Bill should pass to remove doubts as to the validity of securities issued by Mutual Insurance Companies.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said he had made no reference whatever as to the merits of the Bill in the former discussion on it. In fact, he could not have expressed any opinion of the kind until the point of order was decided.

Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland) thought that some such measure was a necessity, and he should support it.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT would be very unwilling to favour any legislation which would tend to cover any violation of the laws, or, by retrospective enactments to make persons liable to contracts which had become null. He thought the measure now proposed was very necessary, as in consequence of there being no doubt as to the liability of Promissory Notes to stamp duty, it would enable such Notes as otherwise might be illegal to be rendered by the payment of double duty. He was decidedly in favour of the increase.

The Bill was then read a second time and was referred to a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday next.

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EXCISE DUTIES

The House then went into Committee to consider the following resolutions, **Mr. HARRISON** in the chair.

1. That it is expedient to amend section 7, of the Inland Revenue Act, 1868, Vic, Cap. 50, by providing that, paraffin wax in a solid state, grease for lubricating purposes and being fluid, lubricating oil made from crude petroleum without being subjected to any process of distillation, tar and other refuse removed from the still without passing through the worm or condenser, and any article produced from such tar or refuse without further process of distillation shall be exempt from any duty of excise.

2. That it is expedient to amend section 29, of the Act 33 Vic., Cap. 3 (to establish and provide for the Government of the Province of Manitoba), by authorizing the Governor in Council to reduce all or any of the duties of excise, payable in the said Province during the period of three years from the passing of the said Act, under any provisions of the laws of Canada respecting inland revenue, which he may see fit to declare applicable to the said Province, to such rates as he may deem expedient in view of the duties of customs payable during that period on like articles imported into the said Province.

In reply to Hon. Mr. Holton, **Hon. Mr. MORRIS** explained that the Manitoba Act had continued the excise laws in force in the old Province of Assiniboia, for a period of three years, but it was found

that in consequence the people of Manitoba were not in so good a position with regard to some articles as were the people of other Provinces, and the object of the Bill was to place them in the same position by giving discretionary power to the Governor in Council to conform the duties of Excise to those of Customs.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON objected to this power being given to the Government, as vesting in them the power of fixing taxation which should only belong to the House.

The resolutions were passed; reported to be received tomorrow.

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BANKS AND BANKING

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS moved the second reading of Bill (No. 53) an Act relating to Banks and Banking.

Motion carried and Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Banks and Commerce.

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FISHING BY FOREIGN VESSELS

Hon. Mr. TUPPER moved the second reading of Bill (No. 48) "an Act further to amend the Act respecting fishing by foreign vessels"—(from Senate). He explained that under the present law, a vessel on being seized was compelled to be taken to the nearest port and placed under the jurisdiction of the nearest Customs officer. The House would easily understand that there might be many cases in which the nearest Customs Officer might not be in a position to protect the vessel and it was therefore proposed that the vessel should be sent to any port as directed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. It also proposed to vary in some degree the mode of distributing the proceeds of seizures.

Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland) said there could be no objection to the first portion of the measure, and if it was necessary that there should be any distribution of prize money, the second portion might be very desirable, but he was decidedly of opinion that parties effecting any capture should be above all suspicion of having any pecuniary interest in the result of the seizure, and that they should in no way partake of the proceeds.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON read the second portion of the Bill, and objected that it was a measure that could not be originated in the Senate.

Consideration of measure therefore postponed.

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INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER moved that the second reading of Bill No. 42, "An Act further to amend the Act securing