

May 1st, 1872

to crave indulgence and assistance from the Custom House officers, often causing great expense. He hoped the Government would take up the matter in order that the charges might be made as low as possible. This was the more important in view of the large trade that was expected between British Columbia and the Dominion.

Mr. GIBBS was glad that the subject had been brought before the House as it was a very embarrassing one to the country. In many instances the consular charges were so great that they amounted to a large tax upon some articles, such as coarse grains. He had no doubt that in the arrangements connected with the Washington Treaty this matter had received attention.

Mr. CURRIER was also glad that the question had been brought up, and hoped the Government would be induced to take steps to remove the grievance. It applied more especially to the lumber trade than to any other, as the charges imposed on each barge load of lumber sent to the United States were enormous. He had not the details before him, but they amounted to a heavy tax upon the trade.

Mr. WHITE (Halton) also represented the great inconvenience caused to the lumber trade, between Georgian Bay and the United States, in having to obtain the necessary consular certificate before the lumber could be shipped.

Mr. WORKMAN would like to say a word for the merchants of Montreal. (*Hear, hear, and laughter.*) The inconvenience and annoyance had been very great. The present Consular Agent at Montreal was not, however, so exacting as some of his predecessors, and consequently there was not the same amount of expense and trouble, but in view of the large trade which was expected to spring up with British Columbia he thought the Government should make an effort to remove the grievance.

Mr. MERRITT would call attention to another point. Canadian vessels trading on Lake Michigan were obliged to call at the first American port, and obtain a Consular certificate. The delay caused by this was a great tax on the trade.

Mr. HARRISON would, as the hon. member for Montreal (Mr. Workman) had done with regard to that city, say a word on behalf of the merchants of Toronto. (*Hear, hear.*) He thought that something should be done to regulate these charges on goods in bond and to bring them down to the lowest possible amount. At present he believed there were no regulations on the subject, and it was important, in view of the arrangements under the Washington Treaty, that some correspondence should take place between the Government of Canada and that of the United States, in order, if possible, to do away with the grievance.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY said that it was quite apparent that it would be a very popular arrangement if the Government could succeed in obtaining a relaxation of the charges imposed by the United States. He might say that he was not very sanguine of success, because on other points the Government had found it exceedingly difficult to

obtain the desired concessions. The difficulties were not confined solely to the charges made by the Government of the United States, but included charges made by persons who gave their bonds (Express companies, for instance), and became personally responsible. The correspondence, if there was any, would be brought down, and if the Government found they could accomplish anything in the matter, they would certainly do so.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said that whatever took place at Washington last year on this subject should be known to the House. He was sure that it could not have escaped the attention of our Commissioner.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT moved the House into Committee of the Whole to consider the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*—That this House regrets to learn that Her Majesty's advisers have seen fit to assume the responsibility of withdrawing the claims of the Dominion of Canada against the United States for compensation on account of injuries arising from the Fenian raids.

2. *Resolved*—That this House cannot but feel that the proposal to indemnify the people of Canada, whether directly or indirectly, at the expense of the English taxpayer, for wrongs committed by subjects of a foreign State, is impolitic, both in itself and as tending to produce just dissatisfaction in the Mother country, and furthermore that such a course of action is likely to operate as a direct incentive to renewed outrages, inasmuch as it is notorious that the above mentioned raids have arisen rather from feelings of hostility to the Imperial Government as a whole, than from any special animosity to the inhabitants of this Dominion.

3. *Resolved*—That taking into consideration the circumstances under which these inroads were committed this House is apprehensive that the refusal of the British Government to press these claims is calculated to encourage the people and Government of the United States, in the belief that the due discharge of their international obligations towards the Dominion of Canada is a matter of comparative indifference to Her Majesty's Imperial Cabinet.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD asked that the motion might stand till Friday, when the Bill would be introduced and the whole matter would be before the House.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT said that in consenting to the suggestion, it was on the understanding only that if anything prevented his motion being dealt with on Friday, he should take the earliest opportunity afterwards of proceeding with it.

Mr. GODIN moved an Address for copies of petitions, correspondence, &c., relative to the establishment of daily mail service between certain places in the County of Joliette. —Carried.

Mr. CHIPMAN moved to refer the petition of the Nova Scotia Electric Telegraph Company to the Standing Committee