

to the mode in which their vessels are laden, and, as we know, great loss of life not unfrequently results therefrom.

Motion agreed to.

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS.

The following motions for returns were severally agreed to:—

Return of all Customs seizures made at Moose, York, Churchill, and all other ports in Hudson's Bay, during the last seven fiscal years.—(Mr. Bannerman.)

Statement showing the amount of duties collected on Canadian tobacco, whether manufactured, twist, or in the leaf; the amount of stamps issued for duties on Canadian tobacco from 1879 up to this date; the amount paid for the preparation and distribution of such stamps; the amounts paid by way of commission for the sale of such stamps, by districts; the number of persons employed in the distribution of licenses for the cultivation of Canadian tobacco, and in collecting the duties thereon; the salaries of such persons, or the commission received by them; all or any expenses of such persons defrayed out of the public chest.—(Mr. Vanasse.)

Copy of the complaints against Thomas Gordon, agent for the Indians on the Thames River, in the county of Middlesex, a copy of the Commission issued to investigate said complaints, and the report of the Commissioner, together with all the evidence received by said Commissioner, and all correspondence, Orders in Council, or other papers relating thereto; also a statement showing the expenses of said investigation to date.—(Mr. Ross, Middlesex.)

Return of all Canadian grown tobacco, manufactured or unmanufactured, seized by officers of the Department of Inland Revenue, within the Province of Quebec, during the years 1875, 1876, 1877 and 1878, specifying 1st, the date of seizure; 2nd, the names of the parties from whom seized; 3rd, the Inland Revenue Division in which it was seized.—(Mr. Gigault.)

House adjourned at 3.50 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

MONDAY, 20th February, 1882.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

REPORT.

Mr. McLELAN presented the annual report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following Bills were introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 15) to incorporate the Winnipeg and Springfield Bridge Company.—(Mr. Scott.)

Bill (No. 16) to incorporate the Manitoba Bank.—(Mr. Scott.)

Bill (No. 17) to grant certain powers to the American Telegraph and Cable Company.—(Mr. Cameron, Victoria.)

Bill (No. 18) to incorporate the Ottawa and Arnprior Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. Domville.)

Bill (No. 19) to incorporate the St. John's Bridge Company.—(Mr. Cameron, Victoria.)

Bill (No. 20) respecting the Portage, Westbourne and North-Western Railway Company.—(Mr. Boulton.)

Bill (No. 21) to incorporate the Thunder Bay and Minnesota Railway Company.—(Mr. Boulton.)

Bill (No. 22) to incorporate the Lake Superior and James' Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. Boulton.)

Bill (No. 23) respecting the Exchange Bank of Nova Scotia.—(Mr. Killam.)

Bill (No. 24) to amend the Act respecting pawnbrokers.—(Mr. Orton.)

PUNISHMENT OF ADULTERY AND SEDUCTION.

Mr. CHARLTON in introducing Bill (No. 25) to amend the Criminal Law, and to extend the provision of the Act respecting offences against the person, by providing for the punishment of adultery, seduction, &c., said: This Bill provides for the punishment of adultery and seduction under promise of marriage. I propose, if the House assents to the second reading of this Bill, to ask its reference to a Select Committee. When the Bill is printed, its provisions will, I trust, bear a fuller discussion.

Bill read the first time.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read the second time:—

Bill (No. 3) to incorporate the St. Lawrence Marine Insurance Company.—(Mr. Gault.)

Bill (No. 4) respecting the Sun Mutual Life Insurance Company of Montreal.—(Mr. Gault.)

Bill (No. 8) respecting the Commercial Travellers' Association of Canada.—(Mr. Beaty.)

Bill (No. 13) to authorize and provide for the winding up of the Dominion Fire and Marine Insurance Company.—(Mr. Kilvert.)

Bill (No. 14) respecting the Canada Southern Railway Company and the Erie and Niagara Railway Company.—(Mr. Arkell.)

STADACONA INSURANCE COMPANY.

Mr. CASGRAIN moved the second reading of Bill (No. 6) to amend and extend the Act to empower the Stadacona Fire and Life Insurance Company to relinquish their charter, and to provide for the winding up of their affairs.

Mr. VALLÉE. I wish, Mr. Speaker, to call the attention of the mover of this bill to the fact that this House has not the right to legalize a similar measure; it would be interfering with the civil law of Lower Canada to establish a limitation other than that determined by our Civil Code. The object of the measure is to compel the creditors of the Stadacona Insurance Company to file within a year the claims they have against the company, and to bring such claims before the courts within the same period, should they be contested, failing which they are to be barred by limitation. Now the civil law of Lower Canada gives every creditor, in the case of commercial transactions, the power of claiming his due, within a period of five years; in other words it fixes at five years the time of limitation. The measure now proposed requests this House to authorize the Stadacona Insurance Company to plead limitation at the expiration of a year. I maintain that this is an interference with our civil laws, and submit, Mr. Speaker, that the bill should be declared out of order from a constitutional point of view.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I am of opinion that this House has undoubtedly the right of legislating on the matter now before it. Moreover, I believe that the Government has to-day foreshadowed a measure similar to the one I now bring before the House. At all events, the question just raised is liable to be dismissed, not only in the House, but also before the Special Committee, which is to consider the measure, and I think that it has always been the custom to refer these bills to the committee, as this one should be, in order that