

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 26th March, 1878.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

## PRAYERS.

## THE QUEBEC PROVINCIAL CRISIS.

## MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

MR. MACKENZIE delivered a Message from His Excellency the Governor-General.

MR. SPEAKER read the Message, and it is as follows:

“DUFFERIN.

“The Governor-General transmits to the House of Commons a Memorandum from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, with accompanying documents, containing explanations in reference to the recent Ministerial changes in that Province.

“GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
“OTTAWA, 26th March, 1878.”

MR. MASSON said he would like to know whether the correspondence relative to the De Boucherville Ministry, as it was printed, could not be placed at once in the hands of members.

MR. MACKENZIE said he had but one copy printed.

MR. MASSON: Then it was printed in Quebec.

MR. MACKENZIE: Yes.

MR. MASSON: That is extraordinary. There must be copies somewhere.

MR. MACKENZIE: That is likely.

MR. MASSON: Does the hon. gentleman think it is too long to be printed in the Votes and Proceedings?

MR. MACKENZIE: I do not think that it should be so printed; but, by understanding, it might be printed and distributed to-morrow.

MR. LANGEVIN: I would suggest that the Address from the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, which was brought down, should be printed as well.

MR. MACKENZIE: I think that would do very well. The two can be printed together.

MR. MASSON: Is the correspondence which took place just before the dismissal of the Ministry included?

MR. MACKENZIE: I suppose so. The Government have nothing else in their possession, but I think it is there.

## BILL INTRODUCED.

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 60) To amend the Consolidated Insurance Act, 1877.—(Mr. Killam).

## PILOTAGE ACTS AMENDMENT.

## NOTICE OF MOTION.

MR. SMITH (Westmoreland) moved that the House, on Thursday next, go into Committee of the Whole to consider the following resolution:

“That it is expedient to provide that the Montreal Harbour Commissioners may, with the approval of the Governor in Council, make provision for licensing a second class of pilots for all steamers and for other vessels, not exceeding 250 tons register, and for other vessels exceeding 80 and not exceeding 250 tons register, navigating the River St. Lawrence between the harbour of Quebec and the upper limits of the harbour of Montreal, and may establish rates of pilotage to be paid by such steamers and vessels compulsorily, except ferry boats and steamers having on board a second class pilot as master or mate thereof, or vessels not exceeding 250 tons register when in tow of a steamer in charge of a licensed pilot; and to amend the Pilotage Acts of Canada accordingly.”

He said that this resolution contemplated the introduction of a Bill making a change in the Pilotage Law as concerned the River St. Lawrence between Montreal and Quebec, inclusive. At present all vessels under 250 tons register, registered in Canada, were exempt from paying pilotage dues; and all vessels below 250 tons, wherever they may have been registered, were also exempt. Experience had shown that, in connection with vessels below this size navigating the River St. Lawrence between these two points, a great many collisions had arisen; and on this subject a petition had been received from the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, which, bye-and-bye, he would read; and also a communication from Sir Hugh Allan, who was a large steamboat owner, and largely interested in shipping and the