

CONTROVERTED ELECTION COURTS

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE laid on the table correspondence respecting the establishment of Election Courts in the Province of Nova Scotia.

* * *

OCEAN MAIL CONTRACTS

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE laid on the table the memorial of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce respecting the ocean mail contracts.

* * *

ALBION MINES SAVING BANK

Mr. CARMICHAEL introduced a bill to incorporate the Albion Mines Saving Bank.

* * *

COMMITTEE ON MERCANTILE AGENCIES

Mr. DOMVILLE moved that the quorum of the Mercantile Agencies Committee be reduced to five.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said this Committee was investigating one of the most important matters concerning the commerce of the country, and he did not think the quorum of this Committee should be reduced to so small a number as five.

Mr. DOMVILLE explained that there was considerable difficulty in getting a quorum at present. If the Premier, however, was desirous that the reduction should not be made he would withdraw his motion. The motion was then withdrawn.

* * *

SILVER MINING COMPANY

Mr. SCATCHERD introduced a bill to incorporate the Columbus and Oregon Consolidated Silver Mining Company.

* * *

BILLS OF EXCHANGE

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) introduced a bill relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes. He stated that he introduced the same measure last year, but unfortunately it was lost in the Upper House.

* * *

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ELECTION

Mr. SCATCHERD introduced a bill to indemnify Mr. Stanislaus F. Perry for having sat and voted as a member of the House of Commons under the circumstances therein mentioned.

* * *

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. Mr. CAUCHON introduced a bill to amend the Railway Act of 1868. The object of the bill was to permit railway companies

to pass over the bridges and rails of other companies on the payment of a certain indemnity by agreement. The bill provides that in cases in which no agreement had been arrived at the toll should be settled by arbitration.

* * *

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex West) moved that notice should be sent to the Senate that the House agreed to the formation of a Joint Committee to act with the Committee appointed by them on the subject of a Prohibitory Liquor Law.

Hon. CAMERON (Cardwell) pointed out that such a Committee would not be able to suggest a measure affecting the revenue.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said such was his own opinion at first, but he thought the matter did not necessarily affect the revenue. Upon that understanding he had consented to agree to the motion of his hon. friend.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said that as this Committee would be charged with the consideration of the petition for a prohibitory liquor law, their action struck at the revenue, and though he did not attach much importance to the matter, it was setting a dangerous precedent. He could easily understand why the Leader of the Government should be willing to agree to the motion of the hon. member for Middlesex West, but the practice would be unsound. He (Hon. M. Holton) thought it was more a question of order than a question of policy, and he requested Mr. Speaker, if he did not care to give his decision now, to reserve the disposal of the motion till Monday.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE suggested that the Committee of both Houses should meet by private arrangement and hold joint consultations as they had done in a case arising in 1868.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: If this were suggested to the Committee, it would be suggesting that they should not perform a duty they were specially charged to perform, which was to consider the expediency of prohibiting the sale of liquor. They might, however, meet and act separately.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex West) said the object of his motion was to enable the Committee to examine witnesses together, and save the expense of perhaps summoning the same persons twice. Since, however, it was objectionable from a constitutional point of view, he would be willing to withdraw it.

After some further discussion the motion was withdrawn.

* * *

PILOTAGE AND WRECKS

Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland) moved that the House go into Committee to consider these resolutions:

1. That it is expedient to amend the Pilotage Act, 1873.
2. That it is expedient to exempt transports employed exclusively in carrying troops from port and harbour dues.