

to endeavor to arrest the evils of drunkenness—to settle our country, and attract emigration, but more particularly to strive, by means of proper laws, to keep among us all our own people. If there is anything which tends to depopulate the country it is the use of intoxicating drinks. We cannot take up a newspaper without encountering reports of crimes and tragedies from this cause. Our prisons and asylums present strong testimony on this subject. We certainly have a right to interfere with vested rights or privileges whose consequences are seen in the injury and ruin of our fellow men. We cannot help concluding that the revenue derived from liquor is a small compensation for the vast amount of the crime, poverty and misery that emanates from the traffic in liquor. We should prepare for a strong Act of Parliament by next session to relieve our land from this great curse. The question of remuneration to those whose rights were interfered with could be considered fairly. England spent twenty millions sterling for the abolition of slavery, and with good results, and it would be better for us, as a new country, to spend millions upon millions than leave this evil to operate in our midst. Our progress and prosperity in ten or twenty years would be enormous. I trust we shall, in co-operation with the House of Commons Committee, elicit such an array of facts and figures, and such a host of petitions as will contribute powerfully to the reform I advocate. It is the duty of the Government to provide in some other way for the revenue now derived from this traffic. It would be a proud day in my life, to witness the passage of a prohibitory law. For 40 years I have been working for this object, and I trust I shall live to see it accomplished. (Cheers).

Hon. Mr. CARRALL, in the course of some amusing remarks, said he was not opposed to the motion, but thought the Government should state their policy on this question, and to get at all facts and opinions, some members of different views from the mover should be put up on the Committee.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS said as far as he was concerned as a member of the Government and the House, he would be happy to see the committee appointed. He trusted it would present an elaborate and useful report to the House. He had no doubt it would be of a character to engage the attention of the House and Government.

Hon. Mr. LOUKE asked if it was the

policy of the Government to carry out the measure or report contemplated.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS replied they had better see the report first.

Motion carried.

#### CENTRAL PRISON BILL.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL the House went into Committee on the Central Prison for the Province of Ontario bill, Hon. Mr. Oliver in the Chair. The mover explained it was intended, among other objects, to relieve the Penitentiary of the care of prisoners under certain circumstances.

The bill was reported without amendment.

#### PORT WARDEN'S BILL.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS moved the second reading of the bill from the Commons, entitled the "Montreal and Quebec Port Warden's Laws Amendment Bill," whose chief object he explained, namely, the increase of the penalty for clearing loaded vessels without the permission of the Port Warden, from \$40 to \$800. Last year 100 vessels left those two ports without this permission, or certificate, paying the small fine of \$40. The consequence was that six were lost in consequence of the improper storage of their cargoes of grain. Hereafter it is desired that no vessel shall leave without a clearance from the Customs' Officer as well as the Port Warden.

In reply to Hon. Mr. CARRALL'S request for further information,

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON repeated the explanation already given, stating ship captains disregarded a petty fine of \$40; \$800 was, however, another matter. Great evils and losses resulted from careless storage of cargoes.

Bill read second time.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

On the order for the second reading of the bill from the Commons, respecting the examination of witnesses on oath by committees of Parliament, Hon. Mr. Campbell,

Hon. Mr. ARMAND said the bill was not printed, certainly not in French. He therefore asked the postponement of this order till the bill was before the House in both language.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said he hoped the hon. chairman of the Printing Committee would look after this matter. The bill was upon the orders for yesterday, and was not yet printed in either languages.

The SPEAKER said he had enquired in obedience to the wish of the House, who