

Bill (124) "An Act respecting H. H. Vivian Co. (Limited.)" (Mr. MacInnes, Burlington.)

The Senate adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Tuesday, April 22nd, 1890.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PENITENTIARY.

MOTION.

HON. MR. MACINNES (B.C.) moved:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General; praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before the House copies of all correspondence between the Minister or Deputy Minister of Justice, Inspector Moylan, or any official in connection with the Department of Justice, and the Warden, Deputy Warden, or any other official of the British Columbia Penitentiary, relating to the dismissal of John Wiggins, lately a guard in the aforesaid Penitentiary.

The motion was agreed to.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.

ENQUIRY.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I would ask the indulgence of the House while I call attention to an important matter affecting the fishing interests of the Maritime Provinces. I may be excused for doing this without notice, because it is a matter of vast importance to the Lower Provinces—I refer to the Act passed by the Government of Newfoundland within the last few days in regard to the charging of a license of \$1.00 per ton on all foreign fishing vessels every time they enter a harbor of the Colony to purchase bait. As soon as I heard of this last week, I immediately went to the Department of Fisheries. I believe the matter has been brought to the notice of the Government recently, and I presume some action has been taken. Not being quite familiar with what the Act was at the time, I could not take further steps to inform the Government as regards the position of affairs. Since then, by telegrams and letters from the Port of Lunenburg, and especially from the mayor of the place, the matter

has been brought very prominently before me, and they look upon it as meaning blue ruin to the fishing industry, and without any warning being given to them of the imposition of this license fee. From what information I have, the fee is imposed on all foreign vessels—a license fee of \$1.00 per ton on every vessel entering a Newfoundland harbor to purchase bait. This does not include the light duties and other charges to which they are subjected. There are at present, lying in the harbor of Lunenburg, some eighty fishing vessels, and the fishermen feel very much exercised over this Newfoundland legislation which they think means destruction to the fishing interest. No doubt the Government will take this matter into consideration and use all its influence with the Newfoundland and British Governments, because it affects all vessels fishing in those waters. Another matter which may work adversely to us and favorably to the Americans is this: the Government propose to renew the *modus vivendi*. Under that arrangement American vessels can get their bait without paying a license fee, while our vessels which go in to purchase bait four or five times every year, would be subject to this enormous fee of \$1 per ton every time they enter a harbor. It means to vessels of our class, with a tonnage of about 90 tons, an annual tax of four or five hundred dollars. In the case of the Port of Lunenburg it would amount to \$25,000 or \$30,000 a year. We know from our experience of the last two years that our fisheries have scarcely more than paid, and I hope that the Government will take immediate steps to relieve the anxiety of our fishermen, by securing either the repeal or the modification of this obnoxious tax. I do not see what right the Newfoundland Government have to impose this virtually prohibitory tax on our fishermen. I wish to impress on the leader of the House that if this *modus vivendi* is renewed for another year, as seems to be the intention, the Americans will have an advantage over our fishermen, because they could not be charged this license fee; they would be liable to pay for the license provided for under the *modus vivendi*, for the season, and under that could enter the ports of Newfoundland and buy bait without being subject to any further tax, while our vessels would