

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Wednesday, May 7th, 1890.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

PETITION PRESENTED.

HON. MR. MURPHY presented a petition from the Society for the Protection of Women and Children. He said: This petition has been sent to me with the request that if possible it should appear in the Senate *Debates*.

HON. MR. ROBITAILLE—If you put it in the Bill they will be better satisfied.

HON. MR. MURPHY—I do not say anything for or against the petition; I do not know anything about it.

The petition was received and read, as follows:—

"To the Honorable the Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled :

"The petition of the Society for the Protection of Women and Children, sheweth :

"That your petitioners have viewed with much gratification the introduction to your honorable House of a measure for the better protection of women and girls; but

"Your petitioners deeply regret to note that for minor girls, who are without expectations and without guardians, protection against actual defilement is made to cease at fourteen years by section 12 of the new Bill.

"Your petitioners represent—

—"That under section 42 of the present law the mere taking away of a rich girl with intent is a felony up to the full age of twenty-one years;

"That under section 44 the mere taking of a guarded girl, even without intent, is punishable up to the age of sixteen years; and that girls who are poor and friendless require greater protection than those who are rich or guarded—and not less, as is here given.

"Your petitioners also represent that in many other countries the age of consent for minor girls has in recent times been advanced to not less than sixteen years; e.g.—the law of the United States, with its penal consequences of 15 years imprisonment for a first offence and 30 years for a subsequent offence; the law of the State of New York, with its maximum punishment of 20 years imprisonment;—and the somewhat similar enactments of Pennsylvania and New Jersey; the law of the State of Kansas, where the age is eighteen and the punishment 10 years imprisonment; the laws of Europe generally, of which the Committee of the House of Lords reported in 1882 thus—"(8) In other countries, female chastity is more or less protected by law up to the age of twenty-one. No such

protection is given in England to girls above the age of thirteen;" and lastly—the law of Great Britain, where the age is sixteen years, and the punishment two years imprisonment.

"Your petitioners also represent that the mother country and foreign countries are negotiating extradition treaties, similar to that with the Republic of Colombia promulgated in recent issues of the Canada Gazette, one clause of which provides that—

*"Extradition shall be reciprocally granted for the following crimes * * * 5. Unlawful carnal knowledge, or any attempt to have unlawful carnal knowledge, of a girl under sixteen years of age, if the evidence produced justifies committal for these crimes according to the laws of both the contracting parties ;'*

"Unless, therefore, Canada assimilates her legislation to that of Britain and Colombia, she will require either to refuse fulfilment of the honorable obligations of the Empire, or else to extradite as criminals persons who have committed no offence according to her laws.

"Your petitioners also deeply regret that under section 3 no higher age for unlawful harboring in a brothel has been accorded than the present utterly inadequate age of sixteen years; and they represent—

"That the age in Massachusetts is twenty-one years, with a penal consequence of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000 ;

"That the article in the Penal Code of France bearing on the subject is . .

"234. Quiconque aura attenté aux mœurs, en excitant, favorisant, ou facilitant habituellement la débauche ou la corruption de la jeunesse de l'un ou de l'autre sexe au-dessous de l'âge de vingt-et-un ans, et d'une amende de cinquante francs à cinq cents francs.

"Si la prostitution ou la corruption a été excitée, favorisée, ou facilitée par leur pères, mères, tuteurs, ou autres personnes chargées de leur surveillance, la peine sera de deux à cinq ans d'emprisonnement, et de trois cents francs à mille francs d'amende ;

"And that the adequate protection of minor girls, more especially those who are immigrants, is here impossible without similar laws.

"WHEREFORE your petitioners implore your honorable House—

"(1) To amend clause 12 (sec. 40) so as to make the age of consent at least sixteen years, and

"(2) To amend clause 3 so as to make the age of unlawful harboring in a brothel twenty-one years ;

"And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray :

"On behalf of the Society,

"S. CARSLAY,
" President,

"D. A. WATT,
" Chairman, &c.

"MONTREAL, 3rd May, 1890."

TAX ON TONNAGE AT QUEBEC.

ENQUIRY.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND enquired,—

Is the Government aware of the existence of any precedent, either in Europe or America, for the levy of a tax on tonnage alone for the support of a harbor police force, such as is levied at the port of Quebec, and there amounting to 6 cents per ton per annum?

Is the Government aware that the levy of this tax at the single port of Quebec has caused the United States to levy a tonnage tax of 15 cents per ton