

## THE HALIFAX FISHERIES COMMISSION.

### MOTION TO PRINT THE REPORT.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON moved the adoption of the tenth report of the Joint Committee on printing. He explained it recommended that the report of the Halifax Fisheries Commission be printed.

Hon. Mr. BROWN hoped great care would be taken to have a full and accurate index to the report.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON said one of the instructions of the Committee was that a good index should be prepared.

The motion was agreed to.

## PREVENTION OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE BILL.

### THIRD READING.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER moved the second reading of the Bill intituled "An Act for the better Prevention of Crimes of Violence in certain parts of Canada until the end of the next Session of Parliament."

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—This Bill is predicated on a condition of things which, I am happy to say, has not existed in Canada in the past; and I hope in the future nothing will arise to require it to be put in force. It can only be enforced under proclamation of the Governor-in-Council in certain districts where violence is anticipated and where the ordinary means at the disposal of the local authorities are insufficient to put it down. The Bill gives very extraordinary powers to local officers, justices of the peace, and others charged with the preservation of the peace—powers entirely new in the history of this country—but it has been thought circumstances may arise which will necessitate its existence. I hope such circumstances will not arise. The measure will be carefully watched by the people and no Government will presume to put it in force unless circumstances should absolutely require it.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—I agree in

*Hon. Mr. Simpson.*

the expediency of the Bill, and I join in the hope expressed by the hon. Secretary of State that it will not be necessary, though I have grave apprehensions to the contrary. I hope the measure will be useful whenever put in force. I would like to know if it contains any provision to enforce it only in such portions of a municipality as may require it?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—Then, it would be necessary to put the Act in force in a whole city, only one portion of which might render such a thing necessary. It is a very delicate subject to talk about, but it certainly might be the case that the inhabitants of one part of a city might differ entirely in their feelings and disposition from the inhabitants of another portion, and it might be very alarming to the law abiding part of the community to have this law put in force in their part of the town. I have no amendment to offer, but I suggest that the Government might have power to put this Act in force in any portion of a municipality as circumstances might require it. Do I understand that no person, under this measure, is allowed to have arms at all except by license?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is the provision. The Act would create no apprehension whatever on the part of law-abiding men, or in any portion of a city or municipality where the people are disposed to be orderly. When this law has been put in force in other countries it has extended over large areas. If enforced in small sections, it would create invidious distinctions and give rise to very unpleasant feelings.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—In looking at the Bill, my objection to it was in an opposite direction to that of my hon. friend. I fear it is not sufficiently explicit in regard to the extent of the proclaimed district. It says "any municipality or judicial district." That may be a very small portion of a city. I should think it would be only wise, in applying the Act to a city, to extend it to the whole municipality, instead of any portion of it, because, in the first place, it would be creating a very invidious distinction, and, in