

Montreal Harbour

be required to pay, because the pilots have no other means of earning a living and their work must all be done in the summer when the harbours are navigable. The exemption, therefore, should not go too far.

Mr. MEIGHEN: But should Parliament not say how far it should go? As I understand the way it reads, the Governor in Council could exempt the ships of half a dozen nations and subject the vessels of all the others to the payment of the dues. Why does the Governor in Council want the power of choosing between nations? Why should it be a respecter of nations when we are on the same terms with all?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Certainly we are on the same terms with all nations, but in the event of some nations not granting a similar privilege to British vessels, it is only fair that we should not grant these privileges to theirs.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That sounds reasonable. The purpose, then, is to grant them wherever corresponding privileges are granted to British vessels?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Lapointe thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 79, to amend the Canada Shipping Act (Pilotage).

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

MONTREAL HARBOUR COMMISSION

On the motion of Hon. E. LAPOINTE (Minister of Marine and Fisheries), the House went into committee to consider the following proposed resolution, Mr. Gordon in the chair:

Resolved, (1) That it is expedient to provide that the Governor in Council may, from time to time, advance and pay to the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, hereinafter called "the Corporation," in addition to the moneys, if any, heretofore authorized to be advanced to the corporation by the Governor in Council by any act, and which have not at the date of the passing of any act founded upon these resolutions, been so advanced, such sums of money, not exceeding in the whole the sum of five million dollars, as are required to enable the corporation to carry on the construction of terminal facilities in the harbour of Montreal, for which plans, specifications and estimates have been approved by the Governor in Council before the passing of the act founded upon these resolutions, and to construct such additional terminal facilities as are necessary to properly equip the said port.

(2) That no such advance shall be made in respect of the construction of terminal facilities,

[Mr. Macdonald.]

unless such detailed plans, specifications and estimates, for the works to be performed by the corporation and on which the money so to be advanced is to be expended, as are satisfactory to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, have been submitted to and approved by the Governor in Council before any work on the same has been commenced.

(3) That the corporation shall submit to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for approval, monthly applications for such advances, with statements showing total expenditure on different items, in detail, and upon approval, authority for the payment of the amount applied for may be granted by the Governor in Council.

(4) That the corporation shall upon any advances being made, deposit with the Minister of Finance debentures of the corporation equal in par value to the advance so made, repayable within twenty-five years from the date of issue and bearing interest payable half yearly, at the rate of five per cent per annum.

(5) That the principal and interest of any sums advanced under any act founded on these resolutions shall be payable out of the revenue of the Corporation mentioned in section 8, of chapter 10, of the Statutes of 1896 (First Session), and shall be a charge thereon as if the sums so advanced had been borrowed by the corporation under said chapter 10.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It will perhaps interest the committee to know what is the financial position of the harbour of Montreal. There has been expended by the Government for the harbour at Montreal, through the Public Works Department, \$1,055,725.08, and by the Harbour Commission \$33,121,777.45, or a little over \$34,000,000 altogether. The revenues of the port last year amounted to \$2,891,274.42, or nearly \$3,000,000, and the expenditure, including the interest paid on advances made by the Government, amounted to \$2,724,100.02. So as may be seen, the port of Montreal is a paying proposition. As my hon. friend from South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) said this afternoon, it is a good investment to make these advances to the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal. The commission needs the further amount stated in the resolution for completion of their works, and I am informed that for every addition which is going to be made to the port facilities, arrangements or contracts have already been entered into assuring a fair revenue to the commission.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I agree with the minister that this is a proposition entirely different from the proposal this afternoon, when this committee was asked to grant \$1,500,000 to the Harbour Commissioners of the city of Quebec. I agree that the Montreal Harbour Commissioners have performed a very useful work for the Dominion of Canada. They have managed their business as a business should