

of the House of Commons, dated 17th February, 1871, for copies of all instructions to the Honorable A. G. Archibald, Lieutenant Governor of *Manitoba* and of the North West Territory, also copies of all Orders in Council relative to said Province since January, 1870, not already published; also, copies of all Reports and official correspondence between the Lieutenant Governor and the Dominion Government from the date of his appointment. (*Sessional Papers No. 20.*)

The Honorable Mr. *Howe*, also laid before the House,—Report of the Indian Branch of the Department of the Secretary of State for the Provinces. (*Sessional Papers No. 23.*)

Mr. *Street* moved, seconded by Mr. *Harrison*, That this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the following proposed Resolutions:—

1. That it is expedient that power be given to attach ships and vessels for provisions furnished and repairs made to them by a summary process.

2. That where there is no Admiralty Court or Admiralty Jurisdiction such process shall issue out of the County Court or Court of Inferior Jurisdiction.

3. That under such process proceedings may be had to judgment, and ships or vessels so attached may be sold thereupon.

4. That a Bill shall be founded on these Resolutions with the necessary forms of procedure thereon;

And a Debate arising thereupon:—The said Motion was, with leave of the House, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House, That a Message had been brought from the Senate, by their Clerk, as followeth:—

The Senate have passed a Bill intituled: “An Act to further amend the Act respecting fishing by Foreign Vessels,” to which they desire the concurrence of this House.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Trupper*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Tilley*, Ordered, That the Bill from the Senate intituled: “An Act to further amend the Act respecting fishing by Foreign Vessels” be now read the first time.

The Bill was accordingly read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time To-morrow.

Mr. Speaker made the following Statement to the House:—

“I observe that it is entered on the Journal of the ninth of March that upon objection taken by the Honorable Member for *Bothwell*, the Motion of the Honorable Member for *Quebec* County was declared out of order for the reason there alleged, I desire to correct that Entry. The Motion was out of order, in my opinion, not because it proposed an appropriation of public money within the meaning of the 54th Section of the *British North America* Act, and should have been preceded by Message, but because it involved an increase to the Public Debt, and should therefore have been first considered in Committee of the Whole.

“I am aware that it is doubted whether it is a correct rule of Parliamentary practice that every abstract proposition which, if acted on, would increase the public debt of the Country, should be first considered in Committee; but my opinion on the point has been expressed on two or three occasions, and I shall so continue to decide unless the House should think proper to express a contrary opinion. This rule, however, being self-imposed, may be enforced or relaxed as the House shall determine. But the constitutional rule contained in the 54th Section of the Imperial Act is one that being absolutely binding should be neither extended nor restrained by implication, but should at all times be most guardedly considered by the House.