

Continued from first page.

stituting bounties upon ship building, for the bank fishery, and other industries the circumstances of the people have been materially improved. If this be granted, it will necessarily follow that their purchasing will be to a like extent increased, so that naturally there will be an increased consumption of dutiable articles, and a corresponding increase of revenue. Now the hon. gentleman appears to have no confidence in himself, or in the positions which he lays down. On which horn of the dilemma are we to affix him? In one breath he tells us of the increased ability of the people to purchase, and in the next he tells us that their consumption will be less. What are we to believe then? Are we to credit him when singing Laudate over his bounties, or when crying Beccavi over his revenues. He saw no sufficient reason offered by the Government for continuing this fifteen per cent. tax, and for the reasons given he would oppose it.

The committee then rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again to-morrow.

Upon motion of the hon. Attorney General, that the bill be read a second time.

Mr Parsons said that he would at present oppose the second reading of the Bill, without sufficiently considering its contents. If they permitted its second reading they admit the principle of it, which he was not prepared to do at present. Besides the outside, who are immediately interested in this matter, may have something to say upon it, and it is only fair to give them an opportunity to express their opinion upon it.

Second reading of Bill for the Prevention of spread of small pox.

Mr. Parsons said he did not believe in compulsory vaccination, and he would not, therefore, assent to the second reading of the bill at present. The public may have something to say upon it, and before adopting a measure so vitally effective to public interests, they have at least a right to be heard upon it.

Mr. Little—As Mr. Parsons had said there are some people who object to compulsory vaccination, and this objection is founded upon reasons which to some intelligent minds, are sufficient to place them above the impulsion of mere vulgar prejudice, one argument is that the lymph is likely to contain virus of a dangerous character. This however, is not a well founded objection, and the results, speaking from statistics, particularly in Ireland show that those who were vaccinated passed through the ordeal of the disease with less evil effects than did those who had not been so vaccinated. He (Mr. L.) did not know how the present act differed from the act now in force. The principle, however, was now universally recognized in all christian and civilized countries; but there have been cases in which a few people have objected to have their children vaccinated. He (Mr. L.) did not see the bill till this afternoon; but he did not object to the principle of the undoubted good results flowing from its operation in other countries. The question of detail the House will be able to dispose of in committee.

The bill was then read a second time and ordered to be committed to-morrow.

The House then adjourned till Monday at half-past three o'clock.

MONDAY, March 15.

The House met at half-past three o'clock.

Mr. Watson in the chair.

Mr. O'Mara—The resolutions now before the Chair are matters of the utmost importance to the people of the colony. Last session when the question of the additional 15 per cent was introduced, it was opposed by hon members of the Opposition and they were then told that there were no petitions before the House expressive of the public opinion of the capital upon it. It is true that there were not any petitions before the House then. This year, however they came before the House well fortified with petitions from St. John's praying for the discontinuance of this fifteen per cent. He (Mr. O'M.) spoke at some length in reference to the petitions which were presented in 1873, and concluded as follows:—

The petitioners who come before the House asking for this remission deserve to receive greater consideration than they feel disposed to extend to them. It would be supposed that outside of one or two members opposite there was a sufficient independent spirit in other hon. members of the Government to come forward and boldly express the sentiments of the constituencies who sent them here.

If the people of the northward were aware that they were sending representatives to the Assembly to tax them unnecessarily they would be more careful in their selection; and hon. members will find to their cost that such is the case when they seek a renewal of the confidence of their constituents.

Hon. the Speaker—They do not represent pauper districts.

Mr. O'Mara would not permit any hon. gentleman of this House, no matter how high the position he occupied, to designate the district he (Mr. O'M.) had the honor of representing as a pauper district; if there were any paupers in it they belong not to St. John's East but to northern districts which the hon. members opposite represent. If this 15 per cent was imposed for the erection of some specified public work, in the benefits of which the people would immediately participate he could thoroughly appreciate and endorse it. No such programme however is held out, and be, therefore, for the reasons given, saw no necessity for it. There is also another matter which he contended for, and that is, he looks upon the one million dollar Fishery Award as a sacred fund which essentially belonged to the fishermen of the country, and that it should not be expended for any purpose in which they would not receive immediate benefit. Why not the hon. Receiver General propose the erection of a Fisherman's Home, where our fishermen, when beyond their labor, may spend the evening of life in peace and quiet. Every hon member of this house ought to oppose this imposition of the 15 per cent. It cannot however be expected that hon members opposite would oppose it. It is moved in solemn caucus, and whether they will or not they must swallow the pill however bitter.

Mr. Dawson—The hon member is stating what is not exactly true.

Mr. O'Mara—The hon. member is one of the few who exercise anything like an independent opinion. Hon members opposite will bitterly regret that they imposed this unnecessary burden upon the people, and when the time comes for the practical expression of public opinion, they will find themselves rejected by an indignant and suffering people, and replaced by men who will have but one object in view, viz., the welfare of their native or adopted land.

To be continued.

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