

particular day for the elections, it could certainly pass, without being affected by the Imperial Act. He was not going into a discussion upon the action of the Imperial Act, but he would again say the hon. member ought not to put the question to him. It was his duty as Attorney General, after the Act had passed, to sit down, and bring to bear upon it all the past and present knowledge he possessed, and see if according to the Act of Union we at this time have the power to legislate upon it. It was not his duty to express an opinion before the passage of the Bill, but afterwards.

Mr. SMITH said this was a most extraordinary proposition. It was certainly the duty of the Crown Officers to advise the House of their opinions upon all legal matters that came before them of an important public character, and not to wait till Bills had passed before expressing that opinion.

The House was then agreed to without further discussion.

EXPORT DUTY ON LUMBER.

Hon. Mr. FISHER moved the House into Committee on a Bill relating to the Export Duty on Lumber.

Mr. BOTSFORD in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—This is a Bill which is intended to apply after the consummation of Union. It provides that the Export Duty on Lumber, which we retain as a source of special revenue, shall be collected by the officers of Canada, the Government paying them commission on the amounts they collect. If this can be arranged, it will prevent the necessity of appointing local officers for the purpose; but should difficulties arise by their requiring too large a sum for the collection of the duties, then the Government may appoint other officers for the purpose.

Mr. HIBBARD.—Do I understand that the amount of Export Duty collected is to be paid into the general revenues of Canada?

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—Oh, no; but that the Deputy Treasurers of Canada be employed to collect the amounts at the various ports.

Mr. HIBBARD.—I am afraid that the employment of these men, all over the country, will consume almost all the duty that is collected. I think that the work should be done with as little expense as possible, and for this purpose one man would be quite able to attend to the whole work.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY.—One man could not go all over the country to collect the duties. The Deputy Treasurers, when the vessels are cleared, can very well collect the amounts from the parties.

Mr. HIBBARD.—If that is the intention I shall not oppose the Bill, but I do

think that now we should try every means of cutting down our expenses, instead of adding to them, and I hope the Government will see that the work is done at as small a cost as possible.

Mr. SMITH.—I am very happy to say, Mr. Chairman, that I can support the Government on this Bill. I have looked through it, though not very carefully, but sufficiently to see that it will be best to pay a commission to the officers of Canada to collect the duties on Lumber, and pay them over to the proper local officer. That is, we say to the revenue officers appointed by Canada, You now get so much for your duties, which do not occupy the whole of your time; we will give you so much upon the duties you collect, if you will devote say one eighth of your time to our service. And if this arrangement cannot be entered into at a satisfactory rate, then the Government have power to proceed and appoint other officers for the purpose. There is one point, however, to which I wish to call the attention of the Attorney General, and that is, that I think the Bill should show upon its face the title of the Act by which the duties are at present collected.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—I have no objection to the insertion of the title of the Act, although I do not think it is at all material.

The Bill was then agreed to.

PETITIONS AND BILLS.

Hon. Mr. McADAM presented a Petition from Thomas Cotter and others, inhabitants of the Parish of Saint David's, in the County of Charlotte, praying that they be authorized to assess a sum of three hundred dollars, for the erection of a Town Hall in said Parish.

Petition received and laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. McADAM moved for the suspension of the rules to allow him to bring in a Bill to provide for the erection of a Town Hall in the Parish of Saint David's, in the County of Charlotte, in accordance with resolutions passed at a town meeting in that parish, and submitted in a petition now before the House.

The rule was suspended, and leave being granted, the Bill was brought in and read a first time.

EXPENSES OF DELEGATES.

Mr. CAIE.—It is with reluctance I occupy the time of the House in speaking, as I know the anxiety all experience to get through the business and return home, and I am sorry that so much valuable time has been occupied with useless talk already. Still, I consider it a duty I owe myself and my constituents to see, as far as I am able, that the revenues of the Province are expended judiciously and economically. Large amounts have been expended since our last Session in dele-

gations, and I now wish to ask the Hon. Provincial Secretary if it is the intention of the Government to submit the papers, showing the amounts paid for this purpose, without the time and formality of an Address.

Mr. SMITH.—The papers have already been asked for by my colleague, Mr. McQueen.

Mr. CAIE.—If that is the case, of course I have nothing more to say.

Mr. McQUEEN.—I gave notice the other day that I should move an Address for a detailed statement of the expenditure for these delegations. I will now ask if it will be given without my pressing the Address?

Hon. Mr. TILLEY.—Yes, I have seen the notice on the Order Book, and the papers will be laid before the House.

Mr. SMITH.—I wish we could get the items; some of them would be quite amusing.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY.—Yes, no doubt of it; and I suppose the hon. member speaks from his experience of delegations.—(Laughter.)

WOODSTOCK BRANCH RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. CONNELL moved the House into Committee on a Bill to prevent the Municipal Councillors of the County of Carleton, who are stockholders, voting on the subsidy to the Woodstock Branch Railway.

Mr. YOUNG in the Chair.

On the reading of the Bill Messrs. Smith, Kerr, and others thought it involved a principle contrary to the spirit of the Railway Bill, and on Mr. Lindsay expressing his conviction that it did not express the idea which was intended, namely, to prevent Councillors who held stock donating the County funds to their own use, Mr. Smith moved that its further consideration be postponed three months, which was carried.

RECEIVER GENERAL.

Hon. Mr. FISHER moved the House into Committee on a Bill relating to the Office of Receiver General.

Mr. BOTSFORD in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—The Bill explains itself, but it may be necessary for me to say a few words. After the Union is begun, it will be necessary that we should have some person appointed to receive the Revenues which will be paid to the Province by the General Government of Canada, as well as those collected here, and to pay them out for the purposes required. He will also require an office and a clerk. But as yet it is hard to say exactly what his duties will be, and what emolument he should receive. In six or eight months the House will meet