

whether Mr. Page, Chief Engineer of Public Works, has yet reported on the channel between Quebec and Montreal, and on the management of the same by the Harbour Commissioners, as well upon harbour affairs generally?

Hon. Mr. McDougall was understood to say that he was not aware whether the Commissioners had completed the deepening of the channel, and that Mr. Page had reported on the matters referred to.

Mr. Workman enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to provide a Custom House and an Examining Warehouse at the Port of Montreal, adequate to the wants of the trade of that port, in lieu of the insufficient and unsuitable accommodation now existing there, and if so, when?

Hon. Mr. Cartier said the subject was under consideration.

Mr. Stephenson enquired whether the Governments have had under consideration the question as to the right of the Government of the Dominion of Canada to appoint issuers of Marriage Licenses, and if so, whether any definite decision has yet been arrived at, and what the decision is?

Hon. Mr. Langevin stated that His Excellency the Governor-General had commissioned the Lieutenant-Governors of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to appoint issuers of Marriage Licenses, and that for the other Provinces His Excellency would make these appointments through the Department of State.

Mr. O'Connor enquired whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill during this session to establish a general system of Banking for the Dominion, or whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill to change the present Act respecting Banks and freedom of Banking, so that the Government shall issue to the Banks, established or to be established under that Act, legal tender notes to the amount of the value of the securities deposited with the Receiver-General in lieu of the notes authorized by the said Act?

Hon. Mr. Cartier said the question of currency was under consideration, and it was one of the subjects which the Government proposed to submit during the next part of the session.

Mr. Stephenson moved, seconded by Mr. Dobbie, an address to His Excellency the
[Mr. Workman (Montreal Centre)]

Governor-General, for copies of all Official Reports in possession of the Government, having special reference to the survey and construction of a Harbour of Refuge at some point on the North Shore of Lake Erie, between Port Colbourn and Point Pelee, together with a return of all appropriations made by the Canadian Government towards the construction of harbours and lighthouses, and the improvement of the navigation of rivers in the new Province of Ontario, West of Port Colbourn; naming the respective localities where such money was expended, as well as the amount of such expenditure, upon each locality; and the year or years in which they were made, such reports not to go back to an earlier date than 1845. Carried.

DISTILLERY AND BREWERY RETURNS

Mr. Oliver moved for returns of proof spirits, beer, ale, and porter manufactured, and the quantity of grain used in such manufacture in each and every distillery and brewery in the late Province of Upper Canada since the year 1859 to the present date, and the amount of excise duty paid by each distillery and brewery during the above period.

Mr. Oliver said he would briefly state his reason for urging this motion. First, it was very generally believed throughout the western section of the Dominion that great frauds were being committed on the excise revenue. It was asserted that not more than one-fourth of the malt liquors manufactured had been returned for duty. Even if such frauds did not exist, it was desirable to have the returns, in order to allay those suspicions. In a circular which had been addressed to members of the House by Messrs. Grant & Co., a respectable firm in Hamilton, it was asserted that in the county of Waterloo, where large quantities of lager beer were made, that not more than one-eighth of the production pays duty. These gentlemen said that if this House granted a committee they were prepared to prove that statement. In 1861 the returns of beer manufactured were 5,920,000 gallons; in 1865 they were only 532,000 gallons, although every individual in the country knew that the quantity manufactured, instead of falling off, had greatly increased since 1861. These gentlemen also affirmed that Mr. Brunel, Chief Officer of Excise, had stated to them that, in his opinion, under the present system the Government did not collect more than one-third the actual duty on all, and this was the statement of Mr. Brunel, not only to these