

April 4, 1871

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, April 4, 1871

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at three o'clock.

Prayers

AFTER ROUTINE

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER moved that the House do *resolve* itself into Committee of the Whole tomorrow, to consider the following resolution:

Resolved, That the railway referred to in the Address to Her Majesty concerning the Union of British Columbia with Canada, adopted by this House on Saturday, April 1, instant, should be constructed and worked by private enterprise, and not by the Dominion Government; and that the public aid to be given to secure that undertaking should consist of such liberal grants of land, and such subsidy in money, or other aid, not unduly pressing on the industry and resources of the Dominion, as the Parliament of Canada shall hereafter determine.

Mr. MACKENZIE said after the ruling of the Speaker yesterday in the case of the Insolvency Act, this resolution was clearly out of order.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said it would be time enough to raise an objection when the motion should come before the House tomorrow.

The **SPEAKER** said he would decide tomorrow when the motion was made for the House to go into Committee.

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CUSTOMS DUTIES

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS moved the third reading of the Bill to amend the Act relating to duties on Customs.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron South) expressed his regret that the duties had been removed from salt. It could not fail to inflict serious injury on the salt interests of Western Canada. He repeated his argument in favour of continuing the Tariff, and predicted that if removed, the whole trade would revert to the Americans in two

months, and the Canadian salt boilers would see their business ruined. He, therefore, moved that the Bill be referred back to Committee of the Whole for the purpose of striking out the word "salt" wherever it occurred in the measure.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said the House had already expressed, by a large majority, their opposition to the Tariff, and he thought it undesirable that these duties should be retained.

Mr. BOWELL moved in amendment to restore all farm products recently enfranchised to the dutiable list, leaving coal and coke free. He hoped some consideration would be shown for the farming interest.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said the Government could not assent to a proposition to remove the duty from coal and coke and leave it on flour and wheat. He felt, however, that it would be impossible, after the opinions expressed by the House, to adopt the amendment of the hon. member for Hastings North.

Mr. GIBBS spoke on behalf of the salt interest, and hoped the House would not withdraw the protection which they had extended last year, and which had assisted so materially to bring it up.

Mr. JACKSON said he would vote for the amendment of the hon. member for Huron South, believing it to be in the interests of the whole community to protect so important a manufacture.

Mr. O'CONNOR believed that the interests of the farmers should be looked after as well as those of the manufacturers. He would, therefore, support the motion of the hon. member for Hastings North.

A division was then taken on **Mr. BOWELL'S** amendment, which was lost: yeas 38; nays 110.

Mr. LAWSON moved an amendment that the second clause be struck out.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said the amendment was out of order, as it asked the House to impose duties on certain articles, several of which the House had just before decided should remain on the free list.

After some discussion on the point of order,

The **SPEAKER** ruled that the motion could be put.

The amendment was lost: yeas 43; nays 109.