

Hon. Mr. McDougall said the Minister of Public Works did not at Montreal, or elsewhere, on his own behalf as an individual, or on behalf of the Government, invite anyone to tender for the construction of any part of the Intercolonial Railway. The leader of the Government did not say there was a majority and a minority in the Cabinet on the question itself. What he said was that a majority of the Government were of opinion that sufficient information had been obtained, but that a minority thought they had not sufficient information, and that in deference to them further information was asked for. When the question came up, with this further information for consideration of the Government, he hoped and prayed, in the interest of this country, that they would arrive at that decision which was best, under all the circumstances.

Dr. Parker said he had understood the statement of the leader of the Government to be that there was a majority and a minority in the Cabinet on this question, and this was borne out by all the facts that were before the public. They had seen members of the Government actively canvassing on both sides the members of the House for the rival routes; and some of them going the length of putting up plans and profiles in the smoking room to influence members in favour of one of the routes.

Mr. Mackenzie thought it unfair that the Government should have selected the smoking room for the exhibition of these plans and profiles, so that the members who did not resort there could not derive any benefit from them. He was informed they belonged to the Government, and were placed there by a member of the Cabinet, and that another member of the Cabinet on seeing them there expressed his indignation at this violation of the secrets of the Privy Council by emphatically invoking the name of a certain black personage. (Laughter). If the Government meant that the amount of information members of this House were to obtain was to depend on the amount of tobacco they consumed, it was time they understood it. The position of the question as to this Intercolonial Railway seemed to be getting worse every day, but there was some hope that it would be bettered when the Minister of Public Works had got to the length of praying for its success. (Laughter).

Hon. Mr. Cartier suggested that as the Minister of Public Works had got to the

praying mood, the member for Lambton should get to the smoking mood, in order to arrive at a solution of this great question. (Laughter).

Mr. Jones (Leeds) thought no importance should be attached to these volunteer tenders. He was satisfied they were got up in order to influence the Government with respect to a certain route.

Mr. Rymal thought that it was time that this continual quibbling regarding the Intercolonial Railway should be dropped. The Government had taken the matter into their own hands, and it had not been productive, he believed, of much harmony among them. (Laughter). He thought it better to leave it with them entirely, having no doubt but that the elephant would be able to play hob among the whole of them. (Much laughter).

FISHERIES

Mr. Fortin moved the appointment of a special committee on the subject of the fisheries. He said it would be the business of the committee to ascertain the present condition of the fisheries, their capabilities, and their productiveness; and if they were in a depressed condition, to suggest the best modes of fostering and developing them. We were a new nation, and the various members of the nationality should make themselves acquainted with each other's remarks. He would ask whether at present the gentlemen from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were acquainted with the fisheries of the upper lakes, their extent and productiveness, and the trade to which they gave rise between Ontario and the United States; and he would ask the gentlemen from Ontario, and even the Province of Quebec, whether they were well acquainted with the fisheries of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and even the fisheries of Quebec in the Gulf and lower part of the St. Lawrence, the number of men employed, and the immense amount of the produce of these fisheries yearly exported to foreign countries. Another of the committee's duties would be to compare the present state of the fisheries with what it was five or ten years ago, so as to see whether they had advanced or receded.

Six o'clock having arrived, the motion was allowed to stand over.

Hon. Mr. Cartier said there was nothing on the order paper to require an evening sitting. This not being a Government day, and there