

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said the Government could not consent to that motion. It was not desirable at the present time to bring down such correspondence.

The motion was dropped.

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MASTERS' OR MATES' CERTIFICATES

Mr. PELLETIER moved for a return of correspondence relating to the establishment of Boards of Examiners for granting certificates to masters or mates of seagoing ships, &c.—Carried.

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INTEREST RATES

Hon. Mr. DORION moved for an Order of the House showing the rate of interest paid by the different savings banks in the Province of Quebec.

Mr. LAWSON suggested that Ontario should be included.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS remarked that many of the ordinary banks were also savings banks, and also building societies in Ontario were savings banks, so that it would take considerable time and trouble to get the information asked for.

Hon. Mr. DORION explained that his object was to include only those banks which would be affected by the new savings banks measure of the Finance Minister.

At the suggestion of **Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** the motion was amended by adding the words, "And the Province of Ontario."

The motion as amended was carried.

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STERLING'S CLAIMS

Mr. CURRIER moved for correspondence respecting claims for damages against the Government by George Sterling.—Carried.

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PRIVATE BILL FEES

Mr. PICKARD moved for an address for a return of the monies received on account of private bills. He said his object was to ascertain the number and character of those bills in respect of which the monies had been returned on the ground of their being treated as public bills.—Carried.

PRINTING

Mr. BROUSSEAU moved the adoption of the fourth report of the Joint Committee on Printing.—Carried.

Mr. BROUSSEAU also moved the adoption of the Committee's fifth report. He explained it contained a recommendation of the transfer of the binding contract from Hunter, Rose & Co. to Mr. Mortimer, at their request, and to enable them to remove their establishment to Toronto. Mr. Mortimer had furnished satisfactory securities.—Carried.

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INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

Mr. JONES (Halifax) moved for a return showing the land taken for railway purposes on sections 4 and 11 of the Intercolonial Railway, the quantity taken from each person, and the amounts paid for lands and buildings, with the amounts paid for appraisals and legal services.

The motion was carried with a slight amendment.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA IMPORTS

Mr. MILLS moved for a statement of the quantity and value of the various kinds of articles imported into British Columbia for the last fiscal year of which there are available returns showing the duties collected and the amount which would have been collected had the Canadian tariff been in operation.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY said the papers would be procured as speedily as possible. There would doubtless be some delay to enable the comparison to be made and surmount other difficulties.

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IMPORTS AND DUTIES

Mr. BURPEE moved for an address for a return showing the quantity of coal, coke, wheat, corn and other grain, wheat and rye, flour, and meal, imported into each of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick respectively from the 7th April to the 31 December, 1870, the amount of duty collected on such articles respectively in each Province; also the quantity of such articles on which duties were paid or received which were afterwards shipped from each of the Provinces, either in bond or subject to a drawback of such duties, also the quantity of such articles being the produce of any one of the Provinces which was

March 16, 1871

shipped there from to each of the other said Provinces between the dates above mentioned.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY said the Government would furnish the information so far as in their power. It was utterly impossible to give the quantity of grain moved from Ontario to Quebec, or even from the ports of Quebec to those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. For the first year after the union the system that existed previous thereto, with regard to the returns affecting the trade between the Eastern and Western Provinces, continued; that is, parties clearing were required to clear their exports at those Provinces, and enter them in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Government continued that system for a time, to ascertain, if possible, the extent of the increase of the interprovincial trade growing out of the Confederation. But it was found to interfere so much with the general trade between the Provinces that dissatisfaction early arose. Articles appeared in the Montreal, and other papers, condemning the inconvenience to which parties were subjected importing from the lower Provinces. The Government then abandoned the system, and adopted the next best, to keep a record of the trade between the Provinces. They could not give the statement asked, not having any such record. But by that in force, the information which might be the most important, as to the quantity of the flour, grain, &c. imported and the duty paid the imports and exports would be furnished as far as possible.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said he would suppose that all the water-borne produce to the Lower Provinces would be reported even from the Upper Provinces of the Dominion. The Department must be in a position to show the total amount of produce imported into the Lower Provinces from the Upper ones by water, and the whole course of the trade was by water.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY said it was not by water altogether. One of the objects of original regulations was that a vessel coming from any of the Maritime ports to Quebec or Montreal, should enter at the Custom House a statement of the articles shipped. That requirement had been abandoned, and now it was only necessary that in the case of a vessel clearing from Montreal, say for Shediac, Halifax, or other lower ports, the captain should leave with the Collector at Montreal, or the port of departure, a statement of his cargo, and also at the place of arrival. Even as between Quebec and Ontario, a deposit of papers was required; but in the returns made to the Department, they had not called for all these papers.

Mr. BURPEE said his object was to obtain the papers showing the trade between the several Provinces, and to ascertain its volume and progress since the Union.—Motion carried.

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OLD RAILWAY CONTRACTS

Mr. McDONALD (Antigonish) moved for a return showing all moneys paid by the Dominion Government since July 1, 1867, on

account of previous contracts entered into by the Governments of Nova Scotia, Canada and New Brunswick and charged to the debt of those provinces respectively.—Carried.

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THE NORTH WEST

Mr. BOWN desired to put a question before the orders of the day were called, if the Government had no objection.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER consented.

Mr. BOWN said that judging from private advices just received from Manitoba, the people were in a great state of excitement from the belief that the Dominion Government had given Lieutenant-Governor Archibald private instructions of a nature offensive or hostile to the feelings of the loyal people of the Province. Therefore, if the impression were false, he hoped an emphatic denial would be given the story.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said the Government were ready with their reply. Neither they nor any of their number had given any private or confidential instructions to the Lieutenant-Governor. The instructions given him in his two-fold capacity as Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and Governor of the North West, had been brought before the House in reply to an address. No other instructions, private or public, had been furnished.

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REPORTS FROM MANITOBA

Hon. Mr. DORION wished before proceeding to the Orders of the Day, to call attention to the state of the public mind, which had been disturbed for the last two days by reports of trouble in Manitoba. He thought it would be well for the Government if they had any information on the subject, to give it, and allay the anxiety caused by the news.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER was glad that the question had been put. The last information that Government had received from Manitoba was on the night of the 14th. It was a telegram from Governor Archibald, informing the Government that the writs and papers necessary for holding the elections had been found, and that a proclamation had been issued to hold the elections, but no information whatever had been received corroborating any of those newspaper reports. The telegram came from St. Cloud, and was dated March 14th. The sensational news came from Chicago, and he noticed that further news from St. Paul, while it spoke of great excitement existing in Manitoba, did not confirm the first reports.

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North) was sure that the House would be pleased to receive this information. Perhaps while the Hon. Minister of Militia was in so good humour for answering