

of Union. We were convinced that British Columbia could not build their Graving Dock with that guarantee; and inasmuch as the intention of both parties to the Terms of Union was to secure that Graving Dock, we thought it but just to replace it by such a sum as would secure it to your Province, British Columbia and Great Britain contributing their share, or British Columbia supplementing the balance. Of course this sum of £50,000 sterling was not to be an advance of money, but a bonus in place of the guarantee. We knew we would have to obtain the sanction of Parliament to such an arrangement, and we told you we would do so. I am very positive about these negotiations, inasmuch as I was conducting them, chiefly, previous to the return of Mr. Tilley from England. I hope the above will prove satisfactory, and remain, my dear Mr. DeCosmos,

"Yours very truly,

"HECTOR L. LANGEVIN.

"Hon. A. DeCosmos, M. P."

If further proof were wanting, he believed that it could be had; but here, on the evidence of two witnesses, he thought he had established conclusively that the agreement of the late Government was to pay \$250,000 to the Province of British Columbia to aid in the construction of the Graving-dock. The hon. the Premier having agreed, in the presence of the members of British Columbia, that he would do what Mr. Tilley had agreed to do, afterwards violated that agreement by refusing to pay the money over to the Province to enable it to construct the dock. Five years, nearly, had elapsed since these negotiations were entered into, and had the Government kept faith with the Province, the dock, instead of being only started—a mere coffer-dam only being now in the course of construction—would have been completed, and Her Majesty's ships of war might have been docked there. It might have been used as a implement of defence in case of war between the Imperial Government and Russia or any other country, and as a nucleus for a colony of ship-builders. The money expended would have given employment to a considerable number of men, and thereby increased the revenue derivable from Customs and Excise by this Dominion; but, as it was, this great work, one of the Terms of the Union, was now practically in abeyance. In going a step further, he wished to direct the attention of the House to a report of the

Committee of the hon. the Privy Council of 29th May, 1876, in which the Minister of Finance was credited with using the following language:—

"The hon. the Minister of Finance, under these circumstances, advises that the Government of British Columbia be informed that, in the opinion of this Government, the first section of Chapter 17, 37 Victoria, only contemplates an advance of certain moneys, and that it is not in the power of the Government of the Dominion to make a gift of the sum of \$250,000, as would appear, from the preceding telegram, to be expected by the Government of British Columbia."

From this, they found that, in 1876, the Government having in its possession undoubted evidence of the agreement with the late Government, for he sent the letters he received from the hon. member for Charlevoix, and the present Governor of New Brunswick, to the Government, and copies were taken of them—interpreted the first section of Chapter 17, Victoria 37, to mean merely an advance and not a bonus to the Province; again, showing that the hon. the Premier—instead of carrying out his deliberate agreement made on the floor of the House with the hon. members for British Columbia, when the Bill was passed—again concurred in violating the agreement between British Columbia and the Dominion. He had further evidence in his possession as to the views entertained by the Government, with respect to that sum of money. He intended to show what the opinion of the leader of the Government was with respect to the Dock in February, 1874, before any difficulty had arisen between the Government of British Columbia and the Dominion with respect to the construction of the railway. He would read to the House a telegram received from the hon. the Minister of Public Works, to whom he had sent a telegram, asking him to telegraph a copy of the ex-Finance Minister Tilley's letter to him (Mr. DeCosmos) respecting the dock, which had been mislaid here at Ottawa, in the hon. gentleman's office he believed, before his return to British Columbia. To that telegram he received the following answer from the Minister of Public Works:—

"OTTAWA 6th, Feb., 1874.

"Your telegram went astray. Government offer is to pay (\$25,000) two hundred and fifty

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