

May 1, 1874

**Mr. SMITH (Selkirk)**, in reply to Hon. Mr. Mitchell, expressed his approval of the resolutions, which he said would meet the views of the people of the Northwest.

The resolutions having been passed,

**Hon. Mr. LAIRD** introduced a bill founded upon them, which was read a first time.

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#### SUPPLY

On motion of the **Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** the House then went into Committee of Supply, **Mr. SCATCHERD** in the Chair.

The following items were passed, after some discussion:—

Under the head of Lighthouse and Coast Service,

Salaries and Allowances of Lighthouse Keepers, \$142,330

Maintenance and repairs, \$262,000

Construction of new Lighthouses, \$120,000

Total for Lighthouse service, \$524,930. With regard to this service,

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** said he would sanction his successor in any expenditure under this head that the finances would warrant. He believed their system was so far behind England and the United States that it should be developed to its utmost extent.

On item of \$62,185 under the head of Fisheries,

**Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland)** said the Government intended soon to establish a uniform system for the fisheries of all Provinces.

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** said he had intended, when Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to assimilate, as far as circumstances would permit, the fishery laws of the different Provinces, but he thought the Hon. Minister should be careful in any attempt he might make to establish a completely uniform system for the different Provinces, where the circumstances were so totally different. There was a danger that in some of the Provinces riparian rights would be overlooked.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** requested the hon. gentleman to explain the difference in the circumstances.

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** said the property holders of the Eastern Provinces held riparian rights, while in Quebec and Ontario those rights had been vested in the Government before Confederation.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** held that the riparian rights were the same in all the Provinces. It was quite true that extra claims had been made by the property holders of the Maritime Provinces, but they had no legal existence, and had received no legal recognition.

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** said if the hon. gentleman consulted the officers of the Department he would find he was mistaken.

**Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland)** said it was true the people of the Eastern Provinces had the right of use to these fisheries, but he

had made a great deal of enquiry into this matter, and he had been unable to find that any legal right existed in the matter.

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** said some of these rights were conveyed by the Treaty of Quebec from the King of France, and this Parliament dare not invade them.

**Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland)** said his information was otherwise. He assured the House, however, that there need be no apprehension that he would introduce any measure which would interfere with vested rights.

After some further discussion upon this point, the item was carried.

Under the head of Geological Surveys and Observations, the following items were passed: Observatory, Quebec, \$2,400; Toronto, \$4,800; Kingston, \$500; Montreal, \$500; Halifax, (revote); \$1,500; New Brunswick, \$850. Grant for meteorological observatories, including instruments and cost of telegraphing weather warnings, et cetera, \$37,000. Total, \$47,550.

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** contended that the sum of \$37,000 for meteorological observatories was too small to carry out the work efficiently.

**Hon. Mr. SMITH (Westmorland)** said the matter was worthy of consideration, but he did not feel justified in asking for an increased sum this year.

**Mr. WILKES** called attention to the inadequacy of the building at Toronto under the charge of Professor Kingston.

**Mr. KILLAM** said better telegraph communication between Toronto and the Lower Provinces was necessary to make the storm signals of any service.

Under the head of Marine Hospitals and sick and distressed seamen, the following items:—Marine and Immigrant Asylum, Quebec, \$22,000; Montreal General Hospital, \$3,000; other ports in Quebec, \$2,000. St. Catherines Hospital, \$500; Kingston Hospital, \$500. Halifax General Hospital, \$4,000; other ports in Nova Scotia, \$10,000. Hospital at St. John, \$5,000; other ports in New Brunswick, \$6,000. Ports in British Columbia, \$3,000; and ports in Prince Edward Island, \$1,500. Expenses of shipwrecked and disabled seamen:—Province of Quebec, \$1,000; Nova Scotia, \$3,500; New Brunswick, \$2,000; British Columbia, \$500; Prince Edward Island, \$500. To reimburse Board of Trade, London, for expenses incurred in connection with shipwrecked and distressed seamen of the Dominion, \$10,000. Total \$75,000.

Under the head of steamboat inspection was voted a sum of \$14,200, and under that of Indians were passed the following items:—

For Indians—Quebec, \$1,250. Purchasing blankets for aged and infirm Indians of Ontario and Quebec, \$1,600. Indians, Nova Scotia, \$4,500. Indians, New Brunswick, \$4,500. Payment of annuities under treaty No. 1, \$14,425. Payment of annuities under treaty No. 2, \$4,355. Provisions for Indians assembled to receive above annuities, \$13,000.