

NORTH WEST INDEMNITY CLAIMS

Mr. BODWELL moved for a return of the claims made upon the Dominion Government consequent upon the insurrection in the North West Territories.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said there could be no objection to the fullest information on the subject. The claims embraced in the motion were different kinds. A considerable number had been filed, a portion of which would be found in the public accounts, others had come in since the close of the fiscal year and been paid, while some were yet before the Board of Audit. There was another class which it had not been in the power of the Government to deal with—those of the refugees who had suffered very considerable loss and inconvenience of different kinds. The most formidable was in behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company. (*Ironic cheers.*) The Premier stated last session that the claims of the refugees were not considered, because the manner of compensation had not been decided on. It had always been the endeavour of the Government to secure compensation. The claims would be submitted to them, and it was the intention of the Government to prepare a measure of compensation during the present Session. When the Manitoba Bill was passing through the House, the claims of Dr. Schultz, who had been ruined by the troubles, and those of others of similar experience, had been brought before them.

(Hon. Sir Francis Hincks here read a paper signed by Dr. Schultz's creditors, stating that should he be enabled to pay the amount owed them, they were prepared to furnish him goods to the extent of his ordinary purchases in the same form as before, and thus enable him to resume his business.) The debtor's account, or amount claimed, was within a mere trifle of \$70,000, which he (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks) did not think a very reasonable one. There were thirty claims in blank for want of data, being those of individuals rendered destitute. Dr. Schultz stated that with \$500 he would undertake to pay their expenses and send them back to the country. The claim of Dr. Lynch amounting to \$300 was also preferred. Having ascertained Dr. Schultz had been a considerable loser, and that the Government was prepared to assent to the principle of compensation, he advanced a sum of money to that gentleman's creditors for the purchase of some stock. He received \$500 for other refugees and \$300 for Dr. Lynch. He (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks) was personally responsible for these sums. Believing the sentiment of the House was in favour of these claims—(*Hear, hear*)—and knowing the Government assented to the principle, he had acted as he described.

Mr. BLAKE: When were these sums advanced?

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said he could not tell, but he had under the circumstances to take a considerable amount of responsibility. Eleven thousand dollars was the sum paid to the creditors of Dr. Schultz. This was a payment made, for which he was personally responsible to the Bank of Montreal. The sum, of course, was not in the public accounts.

In answer to Mr. Mackenzie, **Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said there was no doubt compensation would be given, but the manner of doing so was not decided upon.

Mr. MACKENZIE read from an Imperial Blue Book a report of a question on the subject of compensation, and the answer of the Premier thereto, to show that the Government last session took a different view of the matter from the present or used language to justify that impression. This fact could be gleaned from the report in the Blue Book, garbled and imperfect as it was, which had been taken from a pretended official report published by a well-known Ottawa journal, which was not last year at all reliable in matters of this kind. For all that, however, he thought that the version of the Premier's remarks given was in this case to a certain extent reliable, and it showed a difference of the kind he had mentioned.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD thought the hon. gentleman was not quite correct, as he had stated these claims must be paid by somebody; but he was not prepared to say from what sources. That they were due he had no doubt.

The motion was carried.

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SALARIES OF INTERCOLONIAL OFFICERS

Mr. STIRTON moved for a statement of the salaries and wages of engineers and staff of the Intercolonial Railway, up to January 1st, 1871.—Carried.

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MANITOBA BILL

Mr. BLAKE moved for correspondence between the Canadian and Imperial Governments in relation to the Manitoba Act. He said he observed from the reports in both the local and Toronto papers that the Hon. Premier had informed the House the other day that he had taken into consideration the constitutionality or legality of the proceedings that had passed in reference to Manitoba in this House, and that he had communicated with the Imperial Government upon the subject. That in accordance with that communication a draft of a Bill to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament had been prepared and was to be sent to England by the next English mail. That Bill was to affect the Manitoba Act, and also to make provision for the Government of that country in the future. He could not believe it was possible that the hon. gentleman could have fully considered the matter when he intimated to this House that it was his attention to send for the action of the Imperial Parliament a proposed measure affecting the rights and interests of this country in the North West, without first submitting it to this House and obtaining its assent.

(Here the hon. member sketched the events preceding and connected with the passage of the Manitoba Act in order to show