

ronto interests would always take care of themselves. He hoped gentlemen from that quarter would not be so selfish in future—should not desire to grasp everything for themselves at the expense of the people to the eastward. (Hear, hear, and a laugh.)

HON. MR. BELLEROSE begged to read an extract from Sir Wm. Logan's report upon the highest elevation of the region to be intersected by the proposed branch railway. This height was 1441 feet above the level of the sea. Mr. Legge had reported as to the North Shore on Mattawa route, that the greatest elevation found was but 665 feet. This gentleman computed, by the rules of engineering, the greater distance, constituted by the greater height of land on the south or Renfrew side, at 25½ miles.

HON. MR. LETELLIER said the Question could not be fairly dealt with till the papers were before the House, but when produced, he was sure it would be conceded the best route had been adopted.

The Motion was then agreed to.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF ST. PETER'S CANAL.

HON. MR. BOURINOT said it might be considered superfluous on his part to bring up a question already presented to the attention of the House by the hon. member for Richmond. But he (Mr. B.) considered the matter of no ordinary importance, and thought it desirable to ascertain something about the distribution of the plans for the enlargement of this canal. Their object was to procure the widening of its entrance, for the accommodation of vessels of a larger class than those at present using it. Every year 600 or 700 vessels of a small class pass through, and 200 or 300 boats. The channel might be made to afford depth for vessels of the largest description. Year after year large craft have attempted in vain to penetrate this canal. Now, it was worth while to give members from districts little acquainted with Cape Breton an idea of this canal, and the facilities for navigation it might be made to afford. Lake Bras d'Or, to which it led, contained 450 square miles, its borders possessing, besides, its rich mines of coal, gypsum, marble, iron and other valuable minerals, the lake

itself abounding in fish. When this canal was finished it would improve the prospects of the Intercolonial Railway through Cape Breton to connect with the shortest ocean route, which is Louisbourg, the landing wharf of America to and from Europe on the one hand, and with the western railway system on the other. The proposed road would, to some extent, skirt the canal and lake. The estimates last year promised \$75,000, out of \$260,000 provided for the entire work, for a commencement. He regretted to see that \$75,000 additional for this year, or \$150,000 altogether, for a beginning was not set down in this year's estimates, so that the work might be at once entered upon. As he mentioned already, when Confederation was brought before the people of Nova Scotia, one of the grounds upon which he supported it, as a member of their Legislature, was that such contemplated works would be entered upon at once by the Dominion, but they found that, notwithstanding eight years of Confederation, no public works of importance in the Island of Cape Breton had yet been undertaken, though small sums had been spent for works of no importance. He trusted this important work would be entered upon shortly. The hon. gentleman here quoted from a work published by a Mr. Brown, a gentleman of scientific attainments and who had contributed valuable information on geology, who was a friend of the late Sir Roderick Murchison and Sir Charles Lyell; and he mentioned these facts to show that he was a high authority the following passage upon the fine scenery of the region under consideration. "From the rugged promontory of Cape Dauphin to Cape North, the coast line exhibits steep ascents covered with scrubby spruce and pine, and rocky precipices rising abruptly from the sea to heights varying from 600 to 1,200 feet. Grand and very beautiful are the gorges and ravines which furrow these hills and precipices between St. Ann's and Ingonish, where first the golden rays of the rising sun light up their recesses, and in an instant make all clear and distinct which just before was hid in the dark shades of twilight. Equally grand and picturesque is the