

not authorized to lay those papers on the table, but he might say that the proposition was made on June 16th, 1873, in a despatch, to pay £1,000 in addition to the usual travelling expenses to this agent. One-half of the expense was to be borne by the Colonies and one-half by the Imperial Treasury. The Colonies were to bear the expense relating to the preparation of the case, and the Imperial Government the expense connected with the memorandum of England, while the Colonies were to share the expense of the proceedings at Halifax. A telegram of a subsequent date from Sir John A. Macdonald stated that the propositions were accepted, and, on the 8th July, 1873, a formal Order in Council was passed sanctioning the arrangement; and, under that arrangement, the amount mentioned in the Public Accounts in this regard was paid. He brought down this statement, in compliance with the request of hon. gentlemen opposite, and in order to put themselves right.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said that the circumstances connected with this expenditure had, the previous evening, utterly escaped his memory, as he had mentioned at the time. He was quite satisfied with the statement of his hon. friend. He further desired, on behalf of an absent member—the hon. member for King's, to make a personal statement. His hon. friend was charged, in the *Montreal Witness*, with having made certain charges against the seat of his hon. friend the Minister of Customs, and with holding them over the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Burpee's) head for the purpose of making him uncomfortable during recess. He desired, on behalf of the hon. member for King's, to say—and his hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries would verify the statement—that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville), at the personal request of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, had postponed the motion with reference to which he had given the Minister of Marine and Fisheries notice; and the hon. gentleman did this with the distinct understanding that opportunity would be given him to bring the case before the Committee. The hon. gentleman assented to this, and the witnesses were

Mr. MACKENZIE.

at once summoned, and they would have been here that night had it not been ascertained that day that the Committee would not sit to try the case. He considered it due to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville) to make this statement.

Mr. MITCHELL said that, when, on the previous evening, he had stated that he had no recollection of the arrangement made touching the Fisheries Commission, he had stated what at the time, and now, he believed to be true. He had never been aware of such an arrangement; and this was due to the fact that the arrangement proceeded from the Department of Justice. His hon. friend (Sir John A. Macdonald) had assumed the responsibility, and it was done in his absence. He did not think that he had ever before up to this day seen the Order in Council; but the way in which the question had been dealt with would explain how, in a matter of fact so important in its character with relation to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, he should have been so ignorant. He rarely forgot a matter of fact though he might forget conversations.

GEORGIAN BAY BRANCH.

QUESTION.

Mr. TASCHEREAU said, before the Session closed, he would like to ask the hon. the Premier a question touching the interests of the Province of Quebec, on account of the disquieting effect which had been produced in that Province, owing to the rumours that were prevalent that the Government intended to abandon the extension of the Ottawa Valley Railway, which would connect the Quebec railways with the Canadian Pacific Railway system. This work had long been expected by Quebec, and in this expectation the Province had contracted heavy obligations; and he wanted to know if the Government still intended to subsidize the Canada Central and build the Georgian Bay Branch.

Mr. MACKENZIE: With reference to the question put by the hon. member for Montmagny, I have merely to