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gentleman had correctly quoted the Order in Council under which the late Government had consented to make that advance. He (Mr. Cartwright) understood, that subsequently, about a week after the present Government assumed office, the hon. gentleman renewed this application. He was not, himself, in Ottawa at that time, being engaged in conducting his election; but he understood that the hon. gentleman had had some communication with the hon. the Premier, who advised him on that occasion, that in his judgment it was not possible for the Government to entertain any such application without obtaining Parliamentary sanction for such advance, probably in the shape of an Act. He must, however, correct the misapprehension under which the hon. gentleman appeared to labour regarding the letter his hon. friend the First Minister as at all implying what he (Mr. DeCosmos) appeared to conceive it meant. That letter did not, as he understood it, or as his hon. friend (Mr. Mackenzie) understood it, at all mean that the Province of British Columbia, or any other Province, was to be entitled, at its discretion, without due notice, to draw cheques upon them to the extent of the whole amount of the payment unliquidated. Now, in compliance with what his hon. friend had agreed to do, among the Acts that were passed at the Session of 1874 was the Act to which this hon. gentleman referred. That was cap. 17, 37 Vic., by which, as the House would see, it was expressly provided, and for very excellent and good reasons, that these advances should be made at the discretion of the Government, upon proper notice having been given, and on their being convinced of the expediency of the work. The reason for all this was obvious. It was quite impossible that they should make this advance to one Province without allowing other Provinces to obtain, if they desired it, the same benefit on like conditions. It was also perfectly obvious that in view of the very large engagements which this country had then assumed, it would be the most dangerous thing to allow many millions of money to be drawn at call from the public Treasury to serve the

needs of the several Provincial Executives; and it was for that reason, and after full consideration, that the Government introduced the Act entitled Cap. 17, which expressly provided that this advance should be made in their discretion and for local improvements. He regretted that no *Hansard* appeared to have been preserved for the year 1874, because his recollection was that, at the time this Act was introduced, he (Mr. Cartwright) expressly explained the reasons which had induced the Government to word this particular section in that fashion; and he then had expressly called the attention of the members, among whom, if he remembered aright, was the hon. gentleman himself to the fact that notice must be given—

MR. DECOSMOS: Of what?

MR. CARTWRIGHT: That notice must be given that these moneys were wanted, and also to the fact that it must remain at the discretion of the Government of the Dominion, because it would have been a most dangerous addition to their then existing liabilities to empower the several Governments at their pleasure to come down suddenly upon them for sums amounting, collectively, to several millions of dollars. So much for the reason why this Act was introduced, and for the construction which the Government then and now put upon it. He begged to inform the hon. gentleman and the House that they had had no intention whatever of embarrassing the Government, to which the hon. gentleman had alluded. The reasons which had induced the Government in 1875 to decline to advance a sum amounting to nearly half a million of dollars, although that was subsequently modified by agreeing to refund to the Government of British Columbia the sum of \$189,000, were, that in that particular moment, enormous sums were required to be met by the Government of this Dominion, amounting, in the space of two or three months, from the date of which the hon. gentleman had spoken, to, he thought, the sum of twelve or fourteen millions of dollars. Whether the hon. gentleman was correct or not in the statement he (Mr. DeCosmos) made that, in June or July,