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 that the hon.

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 re-
 newed this application. He was not,
 himself, in Ottawa at that time, being
 engaged in conducting his election;
 but he understood that the hon. gen-
 tleman 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 Parlia-
 mentary sanction for such advance,
 probably in the shape of an Act. He
 must, however, correct the misappre-
 hension under which the hon. gentle-
 man 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. gentle-
 man 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 Govern-
 ment to word this particular section in
 that fashion; and he then had
 expressly called the attention of the
 members, among whom, if he remem-
 bered 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, col-
 lectively, 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 Govern-
 ment in 1875 to decline to advance a
 sum amounting to nearly half a million
 of dollars, although that was subse-
 quently 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 Govern-
 ment 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 cor-
 rect or not in the statement he (Mr.
 DeCosmos) made that, in June or July,