

February 20, 1871

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said the question now arose whether the statement of our losses, required by Earl Kimberley, was furnished by our Government. If that statement had been sent—

Several ministers: It has gone.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said they should say when it was sent, and the matter should be included among the papers now brought down.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** said the main object of the papers related to the Fisheries. The Canadian Government did urge the Fenian claims, but they could not be expected to produce the papers on this subject at present, because he did not know whether this subject would be included with those to receive the attention of the Commission.

**Mr. BLAKE** said the Premier ought to know what the subjects of the Commission would be, at least in so far as Canada was concerned. The facts were probably known to the United States, and our ignorance of the matter was unsatisfactory.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** said before the hon. gentleman accepted the appointment as one of the commission, the terms of the commission must have been settled between the two contracting powers, and the subjects of reference to it determined. He could not conceive that that matter was delayed till this time, but the Government seemed to be in ignorance as to what subjects were to be referred to the Commission.

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#### FENIAN RAID CLAIMS

**Mr. MACKENZIE** gave notice that he would, on Wednesday, move for all correspondence with the Imperial Government on the subject of the compensation for Fenian raids.

**Hon. Sir A.T. GALT** said the return brought down included Mr. Campbell's report, and it would be remembered that the return voted for on Friday included all correspondence on the defence question.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** said the papers respecting the defence would, of course, be brought down.

The motion to print the papers was then carried and the matter dropped.

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#### INTERCOLONIAL COMMISSIONERS

**Mr. MILLS** moved for a statement of the number of days each of the Intercolonial Railway Commissioners was engaged in the performance of the duties of his office at the seat of Government,

and on the line of railway respectively, during the year 1870, etc.—Carried.

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#### DEFENCE

**Mr. MASSON (Soulanges)** said he would not move for the correspondence respecting the military expenditure and defences of the Dominion, since the information was or would be included in papers promised in accordance with other motions.—Dropped.

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#### THE ST. CLAIR FLATS CANAL

**Mr. MACKENZIE** moved for correspondence and papers relative to the canal built by the United States Government on Canadian territory in the St. Clair Flats or Walpole Island. After referring to the position of the matter in 1866, he said he had no doubt the canal was wholly within our territory. That was the opinion of all the navigators and engineers who had surveyed the route, among the latter, Gen. Meade. He trusted that in this, as in every other matter in dispute between the States and Canada, our Government would not yield up anything except upon the best grounds. (*Hear, hear.*) If this canal be conceded they would be absolutely without a channel on this side of Walpole Island, the land boundary; and it would be impossible for Canada to send a vessel from lake to lake through our territory, as there was no other channel with six feet of water we could call our own.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** said the government had not lost sight of the matter, being quite aware of its very great importance. They were now in correspondence with Her Majesty's Government on this subject. The correspondence not being completed could not be brought down, and that portion producible might frustrate their object.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** said perhaps, then, he should let the matter stand. He thought the Minister of Public Works could have answered the question, as he had gone with a war vessel through the canal and taken possession of it.

(*Laughter.*)

The motion was allowed to stand.

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#### HARBOURS OF REFUGE ON WESTERN LAKES

**Mr. OLIVER** moved for the correspondence relating to the harbours of refuge on Lakes Huron and Erie since the last returns were brought down.—Carried.