

completed before the harbour was totally ruined. The work was one of those that was very properly taken over by the Federal Government after Confederation, and surveys of it had since been made. He (Mr. Miller) wanted the reports of such surveys, as he felt sure they would show the public utility of completing the work in the interests, not only of the inhabitants of the Port, but in the interests of the shipping of the whole country.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.—I am unable to say from memory whether this has been under the consideration of the Minister of Public Works or not. I will be happy to bring down any papers in the possession of the Department bearing on the subject.

The motion was carried.

The House adjourned at 3.20 p. m.

THE SENATE.

Thursday, Feb. 14th.

The SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock.

After Routine proceedings.

L'ARDOISE BREAKWATER.

Hon. Mr. MILLER moved—that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that he will be pleased to lay before this House, a statement showing the amount of money expended during the past year on L'Ardoise Breakwater in the Island of Cape Breton, and the mode of such expenditure with the authority therefor. He said that, before going out of office in 1873, the late Government had ordered a survey to be made of the waters of L'Ardoise, with the intention of constructing a suitable breakwater at that place. The work was estimated by the Engineer to be likely to cost about \$60,000, and it was well known to every one who was acquainted with the requirements and important industries of the place, that the expenditure would be a judicious one. L'Ardoise possessed one of the most valuable and productive fisheries in Nova Scotia, and, having a very considerable population, it con-

Hon. Mr. Miller.

tributed very largely to the public revenue. These fisheries would be far more profitable than they were, if the coast were provided with a breakwater which would afford shelter to the men, boats and vessels, engaged in the prosecution of this arduous and dangerous calling. The fisheries of Canada were a source of immense wealth to the country, and those employed in them did not receive the consideration from the Legislature or the Government, to which their interests were entitled. It was astonishing how grudgingly a small grant could be wrung from this Government to promote the development of our fisheries, or the security of the lives and property of our hardy fishermen. L'Ardoise Breakwater was a case in point. The estimate of the late Government for a breakwater at that place, as he had already said, was \$60,000. The present Government found the work so far assumed by their predecessors, that they were bound to do something in fulfilment of the expectations of the people in regard to it. They did not feel at liberty to throw it overboard altogether, or he supposed they would have done so. But what did they do? True to the policy of this Government towards Cape Breton, instead of accepting the plans and estimates they found prepared for them, they determined to substitute for the contemplated erection, a small pier or block of logs imperfectly ballasted and secured, at a cost of a few thousand dollars, pretty much in the style of their first essays with regard to St. Peter's Canal. That block was built in the summer of 1876, and fortunately the winter following was very mild, and the coast unusually free from drift ice, otherwise the structure would have been carried away last winter. He was told it was very imperfectly secured, and not sufficiently ballasted, when taken off the hands of the contractor by the Government. Money had been expended on it last autumn by day's work, the money having been placed in the hands of a Government partizan, who had some reputation as a valuable man in manipulating votes at elections. Some people were uncharitable enough to say that the mode of expenditure was adopted altogether with an eye to the coming general election, and was judiciously used for that purpose. But he (Mr. Miller) did not desire to im-