

such is the boast among certain friends of the Government in that quarter, and it may also possibly account for the very large stock on hand. I do not pretend to be a judge, but over \$750,000 of stores on hand does seem to be a very large amount, when all the necessary supplies can be obtained at almost 24 hours' notice. I move this resolution with the object of arriving at some information as to the mode which the Government propose to adopt of obtaining supplies for that very important public work.

Mr. POPE. I think my hon. friend is laboring under a great misapprehension. Almost all the supplies for the Intercolonial Railway are obtained by tender.

Mr. JONES. Public tender?

Mr. POPE. Public tender. We certainly have not a large quantity of supplies, and all that we do get which are of much consequence without tender are such as we have to get immediately, and they are as small as possible. I have no objection to the motion of the hon. gentleman, but I would like him to confine it to some time. I do not know whether he means to have a list of the stores since the railway was built, or what he means.

Mr. JONES. The last year.

Mr. POPE. We will say since 1874.

Mr. MITCHELL. While this subject is under consideration, I would like to draw attention to a matter which is cognate to it, and I would ask the hon. gentleman's attention to the question of some supplies which are obtained at Moncton. I have heard it stated from one end to the other of the county which I have the honor to represent, I have heard statements, insinuations, charges and assertions, that the lumber supplies for the railway at Moncton are confined to one individual—if the hon. gentleman wants his name, I will give it to him—and that that gentleman tenders at a certain rate, and, instead of giving the class of lumber which is asked for, he rushes in all kinds of lumber of all grades and qualities, to the detriment of the fair competitors, many of whom live in the county I represent. I have heard this from many who are connected with the trade. Whether it is true or not I do not know, but I ask the Minister to enquire whether it is true that a certain party resident in the town of Newcastle, who became a very bitter opponent of mine, gets all the contracts for these supplies.

Mr. POPE. Give his name.

Mr. MITCHELL. His name is Edward Sinclair. He has, as I am informed, been constantly supplying great quantities of lumber, and it is said that the quality is much lower than that which is asked for, and which the other competitors have to tender for. I ask the hon. gentleman to make a note of this. I do not want to make any motion in regard to it, but I have the courage to give the name of the man. He was a very active participant against me in the election, and, as he had not taken any part in politics before, and took a very active part then, I thought he might have some reason for it.

Mr. POPE. I thought he might have been a supporter of the hon. gentleman before, but when the hon. gentleman left this side and went to the other, I suppose he thought it his duty to fight him. However, I may say that a large part of the lumber used in Moncton is got outside of this county, because the oak and other kinds cannot be got in the section which the hon. gentleman represents, and as a general thing, the lumber is got by tender. I do not know this man, but I will cause enquiries to be made in regard to the hon. gentleman's statement.

Mr. MITCHELL. What I complain of is that, while tenders have been asked for a certain class of lumber of one kind, while a first-class has been asked for, a third or fourth quality is supplied. That is the point. My action in chang-

ing from that side of the House to this has no significance. I changed my place over here in order to get a better seat; I am as Independent now as I was when I sat there and opposed the hon. gentleman's motions. All those which I thought worthy of consideration—and I do not think there were many—I supported; and I will continue to support any measure which he may bring in which I think a good one.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Then I shall lose the measure?

Mr. MITCHELL. I do not know that the hon. gentleman will lose the measure, but he may get a dressing.

Mr. POPE. I accept the apology of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. JONES. The Minister says that he obtained these supplies by public tender. I observe the daily papers in my part of the country with as much regularity as most people, and I have not seen any advertisements for supplies of this kind. It may be possible that the Government have sent simply to their own friends to ask them to tender, but that is not public tender.

Mr. WELDON (St. John). I was going to ask in what mode the supplies were tendered for, because I agree with my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Jones) that we do not see these advertisements in the papers. I understand that circulars have been sent around, and, in regard to one building, the first the carpenters in St. John knew of the proposed erection of that building was when the contract was given to a gentleman who managed somehow to get nearly all those contracts on the Intercolonial Railway.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name.

Mr. WELDON (St. John). I refer to Messrs. Rhodes, Currie & Co., of Amherst. It was said that the notices were put out, but those sent to St. John, instead of being posted, were discovered some months after the tender was accepted, under some boxes in a portion of the freight house at St. John.

Mr. POPE. I admit that, in the particular case the hon. gentleman refers to, the notices were not put up as it was intended they should be and as they ought to have been. When the hon. gentleman speaks of no tenders having been asked for, he always refers to that particular occasion which has been discussed here again and again. I forget exactly what the building was, but I know that it had to be done in a hurry. The notices were sent out and stuck up, because we had not time to wait; but, as a general thing, the notices are given in the ordinary way.

Motion agreed to.

IMPORTATION OF BUTTER FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. TAYLOR moved for:

Return showing the number of pounds of butter imported into Canada from the United States, and entered for consumption for the years 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, and up to the 1st of April, 1887; showing also the Provinces into which such butter has been imported and entered for consumption.

He said: I read in the *Globe* of Saturday, the 23rd of April, the following:—

"IMPORTATION OF ALLEGED BUTTER.

"Since the American Dairymen's Association commenced their war upon oleomargarine, and especially since they secured State and National legislation forbidding the vending or exporting of the stuff except under its real name, there has been a significant change in the quantity of American butter handled in Canada. The following figures from the Trade and Navigation Returns show what the change has been:—