

simply directed to go with a smaller staff, and see whether, without materially lengthening the line, the road could be carried from Edmonton to Fort George, through a valuable and productive country, instead of through a section which, as he believed, they were all agreed was unfortunately very unproductive. The expenditure this exploration would occasion would be comparatively small.

Mr. MACKENZIE said he had quite understood the point when made. He had, however, been misunderstood. They had now, they might say, a complete line from Lake Superior to the Pacific Coast by Dean Inlet and Bute Inlet; and, therefore, they would be in a position when the profiles were finished—which would be very soon—to ask for offers based on the Act of 1874. If the surveys of the season proved that the Burrard Inlet route was the best, a supplementary tender could be only received in this regard. If they laid on their oars altogether during the whole of the summer, and surveyed a complete route for two-thirds of the distance from Lake Superior, some 1,100 miles, they could not possibly be ready for tenders for a year and a half to come. Their intention was that, as soon as the profiles were finished, they would take the necessary steps to bring the matter before the public.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said that the work to which his hon. friend from Cumberland had alluded could be done during this summer.

Mr. MACKENZIE said that, if Mr. Fleming's report of 1874 and appendices were examined, it would be found that they had got a pretty good exploratory survey from Fort George on the Saskatchewan, to the neighbourhood of Smoky River, where it joined the Peace River, and from that point to Pine River Pass, though this was no pass at all, but a flat portion of the country.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: So much the better.

Mr. MACKENZIE said they knew this section of the country tolerably well. No doubt there was a fair route here for a railway, but they had to con-

tend continually with the impatience engendered in British Columbia by the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. He was afraid that if they undertook to make an instrumental survey—which they would have to do, if anything was done—they could not possibly ask for tenders for two years to come.

Resolution read the second time, and agreed to.

On Resolution 56, towards assisting immigration and immigration expenses, including estimated expenses of transport of Mennonites, \$110,000,

Mr. POPE (Compton) said that an item concerning public health appeared in the Estimates improperly. It was placed there in 1873, and it had remained there ever since. This had then been done because balances were due under the old state of things; but this Parliament had nothing whatever to do with the public health. This was a matter entirely beyond their jurisdiction.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT said he was not prepared to express an opinion on the constitutional question; but he thought there was fair ground to assume that they might fairly be held responsible for taking measures with regard to the public health in the North-West Territories. One reason for the retention of the item was that they dreaded the breaking out of epidemics, such as smallpox in that region. This had, unfortunately, been the case during the past few months, and they had been absolutely obliged to use a certain portion of this vote to check the spread of smallpox among the settlers and the Indians. The ravages of the epidemic among the latter had been terribly destructive.

Mr. MACKENZIE said another case had occurred in British Columbia, where they had been obliged to expend \$4,000, Judge Gray and another gentleman having held that the epidemic had broken out owing to negligence on the part of Dominion officials. The Local Government had tried to make them pay \$12,000 or \$14,000, but the arbitrators reduced the amount to \$4,000.