

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD replied that no statement made by him today was inconsistent with any previous one. The Minister of Public Works had made certain statement in a speech to his constituents which he (Hon. Mr. Langevin) would explain at the proper time. The delay in calling Parliament together might or might not have connection with the Fishery Articles. He denied that he had ever said the papers would show the reasons why Her Majesty's Government had asked that Parliament should be postponed.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE assumed that the Government had brought down the papers necessary to make out their case. He had noticed certain omissions, however, which he thought should be supplied for the information of the House. He noticed that there was a despatch dated 17th March, 1871, from the Imperial Government in answer to a telegraphic despatch of the Canadian Government of the 10th March, and he thought the latter despatch should be sent down. He had observed in the despatch dated February 16th, 1871, that the First Minister had been informed, though His Excellency, anterior to the acceptance of this appointment as a member of the Joint High Commission, of the impossibility of the Imperial Government pledging itself to any foregone conclusion with reference to the Fishery question. He did not find any despatch that had reached this country anterior to the appointment of the hon. gentleman.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD would inquire about the despatch of the 10th March. With respect to the telegraphic message alluded to, it could not be sent down as it was a despatch in cypher. There was in fact no necessity for bringing it down as the formal despatch contained *in extenso* all that that message contained in brief, the only difference being that one was received before and the other after his acceptance of the office.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE asked whether it was the intention of the leader of the Government to bring down the despatch giving the reasons of the Imperial Government for requesting the postponement of the meeting of Parliament.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD could not answer the question at once. He might be able to do so in a few minutes, but at all events he would on Monday.

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GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Hon. Mr. HOWE moved the House into Committee to take into consideration the following resolution:

Resolved—That out of any unappropriated moneys forming part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada, the sum of forty-five thousand dollars shall be annually applied, for the term of five years from the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, to defray the expenses of the Geological Survey of Canada, during the said term, which sum shall be paid at such times, in such manner, to such persons, and for such purposes relating to the said

Geological Survey, as the Governor in Council may from time to time direct, subject to the provisions of the Act 31, Vic., Cap. 67, which shall continue to apply to the said Geological Survey, as heretofore and any balance remaining unexpended out of the sum appropriated for any one year, may be applied and expended in the next of any subsequent year, in addition to the sum appropriated for such next or subsequent year.

Hon. Mr. HOWE said the Government had considered the suggestion of the member for Lambton (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) as to making the geological staff a portion of the Civil Service proper, and they had decided to adhere to the former practice. They were virtually members of the Civil Service now, but for reasons already explained, it was thought better to vote the amount necessary for the work as before.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE regretted the decision of the Government. It showed a want of confidence in Parliament. It would appear that they did not think it desirable that the Geological Survey should be protected and provided for as a regular branch of the public service. He thought differently, and had no doubt that the Survey would be well conducted by the gentleman at present at the head of it, as it had been by Sir William Logan. He would like to know whether the salaries of the gentlemen connected with the Survey were subject to deduction under the Superannuation Act.

Hon. Mr. HOWE said they were.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE thought that another reason why the Government should reconsider the matter.

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North) thought the mode of conducting the business of the Survey a serious disadvantage to the public. He referred more particularly to the manner of publishing the reports. He had ascertained that the head of the Survey, Mr. Selwyn, a very distinguished scientific gentleman, who had been commended for the position by Sir William Logan, had to attend at Ottawa for the purpose of proof reading and looking after the printing of his report. He knew that the Geological report, from its highly scientific character, and the use of terms not commonly understood by proof readers required the constant supervision of some one familiar with those matters, but he thought it an awkward and expensive arrangement that the head of the Survey whose office was at Montreal should be compelled to come to Ottawa for that purpose. He thought the printing could be done in Montreal quite as cheaply and more efficiently at Montreal.

With regard to the question raised by the member for Lambton (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) as to the rule, of which this is an exception, of voting money yearly, he thought this whole establishment must be considered as exceptional. The fact that it was under the control of the Dominion Government and at the same time had relation chiefly to subjects which were by the constitution under the control of the Local Governments was of itself an exceptional condition.

He approved, however, of the plan of having one survey for the whole Dominion in preference to separate provincial surveys. He