

THE SENATE

Thursday, Nov. 28, 1867.

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.
After routine

HARBOUR CHARGES

Hon. Mr. McCully moved that an address be presented to His Excellency, praying that he would lay before the House a comparative statement of the harbour charges of all kinds authorized by law upon shipping at the ports of Montreal, Quebec, Gaspé, Dalhousie, Newcastle and Chatham, Richebucto, Pugwash, Pictou, Halifax, Liverpool, Shelburne, Yarmouth, St. John, N.B., St. Stephens, St. Andrews, Hillsborough and Cumberland; giving particulars and shewing how such statements are made, specifying also the principle upon which lighthouse dues are collected in each of the Provinces of the Dominion, and the amount collected for the year ending 30th June, 1867; also specifying the amount of tonnage entered and cleared at each of the above ports for the same period, showing what portion is Colonial, what British, and what Foreign.

Hon. Mr. Bourinot said that with the permission of the mover he would desire to add the ports of Sidney, Arichat, North Sydney, Port Wood, Glace Bay, Cow Bay and Lingan, in the Island of Cape Breton and Bathurst and Caraguet.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson asked to further add Buctouche and Shediac, in New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. McCully was quite willing. He then went on to remark upon the different systems which prevailed of collecting the charges and dues, and the necessity of the information for the purpose of establishing a uniform system.

[Remarks were made by one or two members, but the displacement of the Reporters' desks precluded their taking notes.]

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said, in substance, that he would be happy at the earliest day to supply the information prayed for. A good deal, however, of what the honourable member asked had already been published, and he might refer him to the documents prepared by Mr. Wood of Nova Scotia, (which the honourable member, Honourable Mr. Mitchell said, he had no doubt already seen) also to other documents relating to the ports of New Brunswick, prepared by Mr. Wm. Smith, now of his (Mr. Mitchell's) Department. He could not say if all the information relating to Canada was accessible, but he imagined it would be found among the trade and navigation returns published annually. He did not say this as indicating an unwillingness to supply the precise return prayed for, and in the form prayed for, but as it would take a good deal of time to get at all the facts the honourable member desired to have, he would perhaps be willing meanwhile to avail himself of the sources of information he (Mr. Mitchell) had now mentioned. Might he now ask the honourable member if he expected the return to the address to be furnished during this part of the Session.

Hon. Mr. McCully said, he did not.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said, if the honourable member would have the kindness to call at his office he would there find a great deal which might serve his purpose, and he (Mr. Mitchell) would see to have ready by the second part of the Session such as might not now be to hand. The honourable member had asked a good deal which the Government from its own sources could not supply, as he (Mr. Mitchell) would have to write to private parties in order to procure the desired statements. He entirely approved of the motion, and would give the honourable member all the assistance in his power. He had already stated to the House that early after the next meeting he would be prepared with a Bill dealing with the varied interests over which he presided, and even if the honourable member had not made his motion he (Mr. Mitchell) would have