

Canada, during the years 1889, 1890 and 1891, the average value per head respectively at British ports, and so far as can be ascertained, rates of ocean freight and charges per head. In the return, distinguishing between coal exported from Atlantic and Pacific seaboard.

Showing the total capital invested in manufacturing, distinguishing the manufacturers engaged in manufacturing the produce of the country, such as gristing, saw-milling, paper pulp, leather, &c., from the manufacture of raw material imported from abroad.

The value of pig iron produced in Canada in the last year of record, quantity and value per ton—ditto steel.

The increase in the national debt since 1878.

The increase in loans made by loan companies since 1878.

The increase in the liability for railway construction, including bonds, mortgages, &c., since 1878.

The population and percentage of increase according to the census of 1871, 1881 and 1891.

He said: The object of this return is to get official information with regard to these various items, so that in the event of their being brought forward we will be in a better position to discuss the matters to which I have called attention. The return which I ask for is not extensive. The details are all in the statistical year book, and all that is required is to add the various columns, according to the periods I have mentioned. They are the figures that I gave to the House in my speech in the debate on the Address. In that form they may not be exact, but coming from the statistician they would be impressed with the authority of the Government, and it is for that object that I ask for the return down to the present moment.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—Do not the blue books contain the official information that my hon. friend calls for?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—The blue books do not give this information in such form as I require it. The exports of the country, from 1868 to 1890 inclusive, appear in a number of columns; what I want is to have these returns added up for certain periods. It is merely a question of addition and bringing forward the amounts.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT—I think the question of my hon. friend from Nova Scotia was very relevant to this motion—as to whether all these figures do not really appear in the

published reports. In fact, I think they do, so far as regards the exports. The details called for by the first paragraph can be found in the various books that have been published during the last twenty-three years, and in order to prepare the report that the hon. gentleman calls for, I am informed that if the ordinary routine work of the statistical branch of the Customs Department—the export section of it—were suspended altogether, the return asked for by this motion would occupy the time of all the export clerks for one month at least—usual work running in arrear all the time—and I understand the volume that would be created by this would be nearly twice the size of the Auditor General's report. I know nothing about it myself, but that is the reply which has been given to me by the department. As to the second paragraph, the British returns for 1891 have not yet been received from England. Probably the returns would include the number and value of cattle shipped to the United Kingdom from Canada and the United States for the periods mentioned, but they have not yet been received for 1891. I suppose the last sentence in the second paragraph, which relates to coal exported from the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, is misplaced. This paragraph applies to shipments of cattle.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Yes; that sentence is misplaced.

Hon. Mr. ABBOTT—I presume it applies to the first paragraph. With regard to the third paragraph, which calls for a return showing the total capital invested in manufacturing, &c. This is now in process of being made up from the census returns, and as soon as it is ready it will be laid on the Table. It is exactly what my hon. friend asks for. The value of pig iron produced in Canada in the last year of record, &c., and the rest of these items, will be found in very convenient form in the blue books. My hon. friend will perceive that this return which he asks for would cost a very large sum indeed, and would require the employment of a large number of special clerks. The cost would run into the thousands, and since the information can all be found in the blue books, it seems to me too large a demand for my hon. friend to make. Moreover, though there are some portions of it that could be conveniently given, and