

Hon. Mr. HOPE—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not propose to go into other details, except to allude to one fact, and that is the purchase of the McKellar farm. I will just draw the attention of the hon. Senator from Saugeen to the evidence of Mr. McKellar in reference to the amount of improvements that he had on the front twenty-five acres of his farm. It cannot be denied, apart from Mr. McKellar's evidence as to what he would take for it one time or another, that if his farm had been utilized for the terminus, it must have been the twenty five or thirty acres fronting on the river. Mr. McKellar, in his evidence, stated he had spent before that period on this land fronting on the river, from \$3,500 to \$4,500, and he described what it was—his house, out-buildings, clearing and dockage, he had there. If we take the twenty-five acres alone, supposing we take the middle figure, \$4,000, the land on the front part of the farm had cost Mr. McKellar \$160 per acre. He had paid that much out of his own pocket the year before.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON — How many acres?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Twenty-five acres.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON — There was more than that required for the terminus.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—But you must have that land in front. In 1875 he sold part of that land at the rate of eleven or twelve hundred dollars per acre.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON— Yes ; after the terminus was selected.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am not going over the details. I have given you Mr. McKellar's own statement.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—The hon. Secretary of State will not imagine, I hope, that I accused him of incapacity. I know he would not like me to say anything in praise of himself at the expense of his colleagues, and I would not do what would be in such bad taste ; but I must say that whoever has witnessed his labours during the Session will certainly

*Hon. Mr. Scott.*

not suspect him of want of capacity. I have regretted more than once that in the discharge of my duty I had to pursue a course which increased his labors.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—It is very unfortunate that matters of this sort come up at such a late hour in the Session that we really cannot look into them. I would like to call the attention of the hon. Secretary of State to some facts contained in the returns just laid on the table to-night. If I read the speech of the Finance Minister correctly, I think he stated that the increase of revenue for the year, supposing it were to go on as it had done, would be something like a million dollars in excess of what it was last year. Now, we have returns of the amount of revenue actually collected during the first nine months of the current fiscal year. The amount of customs collected during those months was \$9,635,676, as against \$9,363,159 in the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal year. In the port of St. John, the Customs collected was \$850,403 during the first nine months of the current year, as against \$582,607 for the corresponding period of 1876-7. So that the increase of revenue during the first nine months of this year, over the corresponding period of the preceding year, was only \$277,000 ; and as will be seen by the returns of duties collected at the port of St. John, that increase is due entirely to the great fire which occurred last year. The returns brought down by the Secretary of State show, instead of an increase of \$1,000,000, there was an actual falling off, if we include the returns from the port of St. John.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The increase for the nine months is nearly \$700,000.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—I take the returns brought down by the hon. gentleman himself, and prepared in the public offices.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I have got the returns from the Finance Department. For the first nine months of 1876-7, the total revenue was \$17,141,484 ; for the first nine months of 1877-8 the revenue was \$17,788,923. The hon. gentlemen is, therefore, in error.