

INTERCOLONIAL TENDERS

Mr. MACKENZIE moved for an order of the House for copies of all Tenders for Works on the Intercolonial Railway since the last return, and in the same form; also copies of advertisements calling for such Tenders, the names of the newspapers in which such advertisements were inserted, and amount paid for same; also copies of Tenders received for locomotives or other rolling stock, and for rails with the same information regarding advertisements; also a statement showing the number of engineers, and engineers' assistants, pay-masters and other employees in each District and Section on the 1st day of July 1870, and also the number of men employed in each Contract Section on that day; also copies of all reports of Engineers, Commissioners or others regarding the change made from the route selected by Major Robinson between Bathurst and the Miramichi River; also copies of all correspondence between the Railway Commissioners and the Government, relative to contracts and all orders in Council relative to such correspondence of contracts.—Carried.

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IMPERIAL CORRESPONDENCE ON NORTH WEST

Mr. MACKENZIE moved for an address to His Excellency the Governor General for copies of all correspondence between the Dominion Government and the Imperial Government concerning the North West Territories since November 1st, 1869 with copies of all orders in Council or other documents relative thereto; also copies of all correspondence with the Commander-in-Chief and the Commanding Officer of the Expedition, and copies of all orders in Council or other documents relating to the expedition; also a statement in detail of all expenses incurred in connection with sending the Military expedition giving the names of parties receiving money, and stating the nature of the service and whether by contract or otherwise.—Carried.

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LEASING GOVERNMENT LAND

Hon. Mr. HOLTON moved an address for copies of all correspondence, reports of engineers, or other documents, relating to the leasing by the Government to the Montreal Warehousing Company of a lot of land bordering on the Lachine Canal. He said he feared the Government had committed a serious error in regard to this matter. Five or six years ago a lot of land on the Lachine Canal had been purchased by the Government for the extension of harbor facilities in Montreal. It was allowed to lie fallow, so to speak, a long time, but during last summer or autumn was leased to a private company, the Montreal Warehousing Company, for a long term of years, as he was informed, at a rental considerably less than the interest on the cost of the lot. The Government were mistaken in leasing, or lending this lot at all to private parties. But admitting they were right in diverting it from public to private uses, it should have been put up to public competition.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN thought no opinion should have been given in this matter till the papers were laid before the House. A

discussion would then be in order. He had no doubt those papers would satisfy the House the Government had acted right in this matter.

The motion was carried.

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AMERICAN SILVER

Hon. Mr. HOLTON then moved for a statement of the amount of American silver withdrawn from circulation and the details of the expenses, and so forth, thereby incurred; and also a statement showing the total amount of the new issue of silver coin, the cost of coinage and the profit of the Government resulting from the issue.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said there could be no objection to giving this information. But he thought he would only do right in taking the earliest opportunity of stating what the action of the Government had been with respect to the removal of this coin. He would not enlarge at present on the very great loss and inconvenience to the country, resulting from the circulation of this American silver. On his acceptance of office, he found that the subject engaged the very serious consideration of the House during the previous session. He found that during that session a large special committee had been appointed, of which the hon. member for North Oxford was the chairman, for the purpose of investigating the matter. They reported a number of resolutions, and recommended that the plan adopted by Government in 1868, by which silver to the amount of one million was purchased and exported, be again tried, or that the Government should in some way withdraw silver to the amount of five millions from the circulation of the country.

The last resolution was not adopted by the House, and it seemed to him that the plan adopted by his predecessor did not meet with their approval. From the best information that he (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks) could obtain—and he might say that the result had rather confirmed his impression—the estimated amount of silver in the country which had been in circulation for a period of about five years past, was something about \$10,000,000. Under the operations of Mr. Wier, it cost a good deal to remove the silver from circulation. When the Government took up this matter, they were of opinion that it was exceedingly desirable that the public should be put to as little cost as possible. He believed that a scheme could have been devised for removing the silver, by which the country would incur no expense, but it would have been opposed. It would be remembered that the coin was received in the first place at four per cent, afterwards it was increased to five and then to six per cent, at which it stopped, and, he might say, after all the coin had been received. If it had been put down to six per cent at first, it would have paid all the expenses of removal.

He would like, before sitting down, to call the attention of the House to the enormous loss which the public sustained by the circulation of this silver. They knew that nine millions of dollars were exported, and it was estimated that between one and a quarter and one and a half millions of dollars remained in circulation in the