

statement, already prepared, supplemented in accordance with the motion of my hon. friend (Mr. Ives). I quite agree with the hon. member for West Durham that it would be well to have a statement showing year by year the amount of land sold, the money received, the amount of scrip, and the expense of surveys and so forth. I have already given orders for such a statement.

Mr. MACDOUGALL. I hope the hon. mover will permit a slight amendment in regard to his return. I do not see that it provides for showing the quantity of land that may be sold to any individual. It is said that some very large purchases have been made by individuals. I think a return showing the properties sold to individuals would be information useful to the House. The return now proposed does not provide for that information.

Motion agreed to.

HOMESTEADS AND PRE-EMPTION RIGHTS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. IVES moved for a statement of the total number of acres of land sold and taken up as homesteads and pre-emption rights from the acquisition of the North-West up to the 31st October last; the total amount received in money therefrom, and the amount which should thereafter be received.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I would suggest that it be amended so that the returns shall be made year by year.

Mr. IVES. With the permission of the House I will amend it so that the return may be an annual one, distinguishing one year from another.

Mr. ANGLIN. The returns brought down this afternoon contain all the information the hon. gentleman asks for up to the 31st December last. I have some recollection that towards the close of the last Session the right hon. leader of the Government stated in the House that some such report as this would be laid upon the Table annually, and that some regulations to that effect were brought down and adopted by the House.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think the conversation arose from an enquiry made by the hon. member for Centre Huron (Sir Richard J. Cartwright) as to the advisability to bring down the account from the beginning, and some time ago I gave orders that the report should be prepared.

Mr. BLAKE. It was in connection with the proposition that we ought to know the expenditure year by year in connection with the surveys and administration of these lands, and also the returns, because it was said that inasmuch as you are taking as capital account \$300,000 for surveys, it is important to see year by year that it is repaid.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. The matter was brought up upon a motion of mine to make certain returns standing orders. That, upon consideration, was withdrawn. The First Minister said it was too grave a matter to be adopted off hand. I think what the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Anglin) referred to arose later in the Session in connection with the discussion on the Estimates, and more particularly with the appropriation of \$300,000 for service which was to be charged to capital account instead of, as heretofore, to ordinary income.

Mr. MILLS. It seems to me this information ought to be given every year in the annual return of the department. We have in the Trade and Navigation Returns statements with regard to the condition of trade, and all the information required in that particular branch; but with regard to the Crown Lands sold, the amount of money received during the year, and the like of that information, might be given by the Minister of the Interior in that part of his report relating to the management of the Dominion Lands.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that a Special Committee of seven members be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members, to compose the Select Standing Committees, ordered by the House on Thursday, the 9th instant, and that Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Leonard Tilley, Sir Charles Tupper, Messrs. Langevin, Mackenzie, Blake and Laurier do compose the said Committee.

Motion agreed to.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY RESOLUTIONS.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved that the House do go into Committee of the Whole, on Tuesday next, to consider the following resolutions:—

1st. That it is expedient to grant and appropriate twenty-five millions of dollars according to the terms of the contract relating to the Canadian Pacific Railway transmitted to this House by His Excellency the Governor General, by his Message dated December 10th.

2nd. That it is expedient to grant and appropriate twenty-five millions of acres of land in the North West Territories according to the terms of the said contract so transmitted as aforesaid.

Mr. BLAKE. I had really hoped that the Government would make a different response to the appeal which was made at the earliest moment it could be made, not to proceed with the discussion of this enormous question until due time had been given for consideration by the House and the country. I think that all the arguments which, in ignorance of the precise details of the contract, were advanced in favor of that view, as to any contract which could raise questions of such practical novelty and magnitude as this, are increased in importance by the contract which has been brought down. I am not about to discuss the contract, but I think it is fair to make the observation that there are in it provisions of various kinds which were certainly not contemplated by members of this House, or by the public. I think it is fair to say that such lights as we have had upon the subject have been misleading lights, and that the public has—I do not mean by the Ministers, but by those who assume to speak with some degree of authority as being the organs of the Ministers—these organs have been not merely not well informed, but absolutely misinformed. The importance and the gravity of this question, as the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Mackenzie) observed at an earlier period of the day, transcends that of any question which could be submitted to Parliament. It is of the very greatest magnitude, and the decision of it will materially affect our interests financially. It will affect the interests of the North-West vitally for twenty years to come, at least, and perhaps for ever. The country has had no opportunity of being aware of the proposals of Ministers. The House had no opportunity of being aware of those proposals until late on Friday night, and it is proposed to commence the discussion of them on Tuesday, with the avowed object of, if possible, proceeding *de die in diem*, and of bringing the subject to a conclusion before Christmas. The hon. leader of the Government stated that there was no intention to force a decision before Christmas, but the intention is to force it with the utmost expedition, and if it may be, before Christmas. Now, I say the discussion ought not to be commenced before Christmas. I say time is required for consideration by members and the country, with a view to the formation of a just and proper opinion outside as well as inside of this House, before we can be called upon to decide. The subject is of such importance, the question is so unusual, so unprecedented, and the results will be so grave, that I think it my duty to mark, in the most signal manner, the opinion that there ought to be an interval for reflection, consideration, and the formation of opinion outside as well as inside of this House before we are called upon to deliberate and decide. With that view, without protracting the dis-