

May 1st, 1872

which were not reported at Portland.

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** repeated the explanation in French; in the course of which,

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** objected—that the French translation contained much more than had been said by the Minister of Customs.

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** said his statement and that of the Minister of Customs were substantially the same.

Motion carried.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** moved an Address for correspondence respecting the conduct of Iroquois chiefs at Caughnawaga [*Kahnawake*].—Carried.

**Mr. STEPHENSON** moved an Address for a statement of steam fire engines imported into the Dominion during the years 1870 and 1871. He said that manufactures of fire engines had been commenced in Canada, but Americans had used every effort to break down the Canadian manufacture, by bringing engines to Canada and selling them and offering them for sale at lower prices than those at which they could be obtained at the place of manufacture in the United States. More effectually to carry out their designs antagonistic to Canada these Americans had represented that parties purchasing engines from them would not be compelled to pay duty and that if they did pay it the Government would allow them a drawback. Now, he disbelieved that the Government had acted so unfairly in the face of the tariff propositions they had made, and he thought it necessary in order that the truth might be known that these papers should be produced.

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** said he had no objection to the motion, and the hon. gentleman would find when the papers came down that they were entirely satisfactory.

The motion then carried.

**Mr. FOURNIER** moved an Address for the correspondence relating to the non-payment to Charles Coté of the amount awarded to him by the official arbitrators.—Carried.

**Mr. JOLY** moved the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider the following resolution:

That considering the Superannuation Fund is raised entirely out of the compulsory contribution taken from the salaries of public officers, it is just that the whole of the Fund should be consecrated to the use and benefit of the said officers by applying it, first to their personal relief, according to law, and (if any surplus be left after payment of their superannuation allowances) to the relief of their widows and orphans.

He thought he could satisfy the House that his motion was just and fair. He referred to the returns that had recently been laid before the House which showed that on the 31st March last there was a

balance to the credit of the Superannuation Fund of \$50,630, while the amount required for the payments out of the Fund yearly was \$42,000, leaving a large balance not required. As that fund had been raised by forced contributions from the salaries of public officers, it was only fair that those public officers should reap the benefit. The amount required for the payments would never exceed the amount he had named \$42,000. He had taken the trouble to count the number of officers liable to contribute to the Superannuation Fund, and it amounted to 1392. It appeared from the return before the House, that there were 133 officers superannuated or one in ten of the whole number. These however formed the arrears of a great number of years, and, therefore, Government would never be called upon to superannuate so large a number again.

He then referred to the Estimates for the year ending June, 1863, which stated the sum to be appropriated on account of superannuation to be \$41,300, leaving a balance of 8 or 9 thousand dollars, and confirming his statement that the expenditure would not increase. Under these circumstances he maintained that the proper way to dispose of the annual balance would be to pension widows and orphans of deceased public servants and he hoped the Government would not object to let the House deal with the matter, and that the House would sustain the view he had taken.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said the legislation on this subject was experimental, and he had never been able to say definitely whether the rate now paid on account of superannuation was the exact rate that should be paid,—but, if it should prove that 4 per cent was too high Government and Parliament would be quite ready to reduce it. He entirely dissented from the opinion that it was expedient to divert any portion of the fund to the relief of widows and orphans. It was not the business of the Legislature to provide a fund for that purpose.

Members of the Civil Service had the same power to provide for their families by life insurance as any other class, and the object of the Superannuation Fund was to enable the Government to insist upon the retirement of any officer who might become incapable of discharging his duty, with a proper provision for their support. Individually he would have been exceedingly glad to have proposed to provide for superannuation without a reduction of salaries, but he considered it impossible to obtain the sanction of the House to a change in the Revenue on account of Superannuation.

**Mr. JOLY** said his proposition was merely to apply the surplus to the advantage of those who had raised the fund.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said he perfectly understood that, but if the amount collected was too great the proper mode of relief and that most acceptable to the public servants themselves would be to reduce the rate. He considered however that the proposition was premature, and hoped that after the House had discussed it, it would be withdrawn.

**Hon. Mr. HUTCHISON** said a pension had been given to a