

April 12, 1871

to permit of the passage of vessels under it. He did not approve of these draw bridges, which required officers to look after them.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** did not think this House should be called upon to vote money to aid in constructing a purely Local work.

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** said the Canal was a public work, maintained for the benefit of the whole country, and while it was so maintained, it was the duty of the Government to aid in constructing bridges in places where, but for the existence of the Canal, they would not be required. In reply to the hon. member for Glengarry, he would simply say that he was not certain what kind of a bridge would be built, but a fixed bridge would be constructed if possible.

**Mr. CURRIER** said the banks of the river at the place were low, and it would cost a large sum to construct a fixed bridge sufficiently high to permit vessels to pass under it.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** wished to know if it were true that it was a river and not a canal that it was proposed to bridge.

**Mr. CURRIER:** At the place, the river is the canal.

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** said in consequence of the construction of the dam the breadth of the water had been so greatly increased that it would be unfair to expect the local Corporation to build the bridge alone.

Item carried.

The item of \$297,500, for Public Buildings, was carried without discussion.

On the item \$76,950, for Harbours and Piers,

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** protested against bringing down these estimates for local expenditures near the close of the Session, when nearly all the members were away.

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** said that the reports of the engineers who had made these surveys reached him too late to place these appropriations in the general estimates. None of the gentlemen representing constituencies in which these appropriations were to be expended knew anything about it till they saw the items in the supplementary estimates. In reply to Mr. Holton, he said that very little, if any, revenue need be expected from these Harbours of Refuge on the coast of Nova Scotia.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** said the hon. member should give some explanation respecting the appropriation for a Harbour of Refuge at Liverpool, N.S. If his (Mr. Mackenzie's) information was correct, the coast was deeply indented with bays, while at Liverpool the place was exceedingly unfavorable for being converted into a Harbour of Refuge. Did the engineer recommend the construction of a Harbour of Refuge at this point?

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN:** Yes.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** said that several lives and a large number of vessels had been lost at the place for want of a Harbour of Refuge.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** criticised the appropriations for Harbours and Piers. The item of \$1,650 for the completion and repairs of a pier in Digby Bay, N.S., he said, was merely for the purpose of building a wharf to accommodate the people of Digby Village. It was a work which should be constructed by the local authorities, and should not be included in these estimates.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** said it was an interprovincial pier, from which a steamer started daily to the ports of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** said there were hundreds of places in the Dominion which were as much entitled to receive public aid as Digby.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER:** The wharf is an asset of the Dominion.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** said it would be an advantage to the country if it were not. If there was one place more insignificant than another, from a commercial point of view, it was Digby, and if this appropriation were voted, every little hamlet on the coast of the Dominion would be expecting similar appropriations.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** said this was an asset handed over to the Dominion by the local government at the Confederation of the provinces.

**Mr. MACKENZIE:** It was built by the Dominion.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** said he thought the hon. member was laboring under a misapprehension. The pier was built by the local government at a large cost, but being a point of inter-communication between the Provinces, and consequently, was handed over to the Dominion. This government could take possession of it at any moment and deprive the local authorities of the use of it.

**Mr. MACKENZIE:** If the hon. member will say he is serious, I will not say another word.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER:** I am serious.

**Mr. MACKENZIE:** Then I am astonished. (*A laugh.*)

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER:** The hon. member has broken his agreement.

**Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry)** objected to this Dominion building a pier in the harbor.

**Mr. McDONALD (Antigonish)** said there was a better ground for making this appropriation than to expend money on Canals, Slides, and Booms, in Ontario.

**Mr. MACKENZIE:** But we derive a revenue from them.