

spoiled in each sub-division, at the last General Election, and also at each election held subsequently thereto up to date; also; the number of electors on the electors' lists, together with the population, as shown by the last Census, of every such sub-division; also, a statement in each case in which a recount or re-addition was made, showing the changes made in every sub-division and in the district on such recount, with the number of ballots rejected which had been formerly allowed, and allowed which had been formerly rejected in each such sub-division, with the reasons, so far as obtainable, for such rejection or allowance. He said: I presume, as usual, preparations have been made for meeting this motion, and as we are all anxious to get the authentic returns at the earliest moment possible, I would suggest that, should the statement enquired for in the latter part of the motion entail any delay in its preparation, it be made a supplementary statement and furnished separate from the other. I ventured to state, the other day, that very great difficulties had arisen which would demand our most serious attention in the working of the Ballot Act. Amongst them was to be found the disfranchisement of hundreds, even thousands, of electors, upon recounts. It is, therefore, important we should hear what the changes were that were made upon the recounts, and the reasons for those changes. Those reasons may be seen on the surface. For instance, that certain ballots were not initialed or were numbered, and it may be that a statement of the reason for rejection may accompany the ballot. In any such case we want the material as far as obtainable, so that we may understand how it happens so very large a portion of the electors failed to accomplish their object—the recording of their votes.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. As there may be some delay in the latter part, I would suggest that the motion be amended, making the latter return supplementary. I would also add to the motion a return of the number of voters in the constituency, and whether the election was by acclamation or whether a poll was asked.

The motion, as amended, agreed to.

CONSOLIDATION OF DOMINION STATUTES.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for a statement in detail, with dates of all expenditures made in connection with the commission or authorization to the Hon. James Cockburn, Q.C., to consolidate the Dominion Statutes, and copies of the commission or authorization and of any reports made by him on the subject, said: We all learned with much regret, by the announcement made by Mr. Cockburn, in November before last, that his health was such as to prevent him any longer discharging the arduous duties of a member of this House, and consequently resigned his seat in Parliament. Contemporaneously with that, it was announced he had been appointed to do the work of consolidating the Statutes; but I observe, by the Public Accounts now brought down, that that appointment, so far as emoluments are concerned, had preceded the resignation by a period of six months, payments having been made for the whole fiscal year from 1st July to 30th June. The Hon. James Cockburn, it appears, acted in that capacity for that period, though this office had been conferred upon him after he ceased to be a member of the House. It is important we should know what progress is being made in the work, what has actually been done. A commissioner and another officer have been appointed, and both have been paid, but as yet no other proofs of this arrangement have been made visible.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There will be no objection to this return being sent down. Mr. Cockburn, as we all know, broke down in his health so much so that he could not remain in his seat. His disease was such, he could not attend here with any regularity, and he has been very much confined to the sofa. This has not prevented him, however,

from working earnestly and assiduously in the consolidation of the Statutes, and those who know him will agree that he is a very fit person to be employed in that service. I am glad to say that his indisposition has not prevented his attending to this work. A report will be laid at an early day on the Table of the House showing the progress made in the consolidation of the Statutes.

Motion agreed to.

MANUFACTURE OF GREAT GUNS.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for copy of contract, correspondence, reports and statement of payments made in connection with the manufacture of great guns for the Government of Canada, said: Some time ago a vote was taken in the Estimates for the manufacture of great guns—I think they were called Pallisser guns, but the hon. Minister of Militia will correct me if wrong, as I am not very well versed in the names of munitions of war—at Montreal for the purposes of the Dominion. Our hon. friend, whom we much feared some time ago, might have been promoted to the realms above, but, we are glad to know, has been only promoted half-way—to that Chamber which occupies the other end of this building—has told us here that he had achieved a remarkable triumph—that he had arranged for the manufacture of great guns, superior in every quality to those manufactured at Woolwich and at a lower cost. Upon that, I suggested to him that it would be well, since he had accomplished these things, that he should propose to tender to the British Government to supply the British Army with those munitions of war which they require, and which, with their inferior powers and capacities, they have been able only to produce at a greater cost and of a lower quality. My hon. friend, however, thought that he would proceed slowly, and that he would conclude a successful arrangement for the making of these guns first, before he followed my advice. I do not know what has been done since about the great guns; I only know what has been said in the newspapers, which sometimes tell the truth, and they say, that there is a quarrel between the contractors and the Government, that the work has not been done, and that there is a law suit going on now upon the subject of great guns. I should like to know what the facts are, and with that view I make this motion.

Mr. CARON. I am very happy to see that my hon. friend takes such a deep interest in this matter, and it will afford me great pleasure indeed to give him all possible information. The papers will show him the names of the contractors, and will also establish, I believe, that my predecessor, the hon. Mr. Masson, is not to blame for anything which may occur. The contract so far has not been carried out, and the Government took measures to protect itself against any loss.

Mr. BLAKE. Then the hon. gentleman has not made those arrangements with the British Government that I suggested.

Mr. CARON. Not yet.

Motion agreed to.

RETURNING OFFICERS IN THE GENERAL ELECTION OF 1882.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for a list of the returning officers appointed for the General Election 1882, other than registrars or sheriffs, and the occupations and residences of such officers, and a list of the sheriffs and registrars for the districts in which such other returning officers were appointed, said: It has been stated that "it was only in cases where the Government knew, and were morally or legally convinced, that the persons who would officiate as returning officers would be unworthy of the