

Shipowners, underwriters and others interested in our inland navigation, have forwarded largely signed petitions to the Government, praying for a harbor in those waters. Some have petitioned for the harbor in one place, and some have preferred other places, not a few praying for the selection of Pelee Island. It is not for me to suggest at what place the harbor should be established. The Government have professional men and engineers competent to decide that point. But I think the information obtained on this subject has satisfied the Government of the necessity of such a harbor, and that something ought to be done in the direction desired, not merely in the interest of the people of Essex—because this is not a local question, but in the interest of our inland navigation. At a point where so many wrecks have occurred in so short a time, some protection should be afforded our shipping. I trust that the Minister of Public Works, who, I am satisfied, is desirous of doing all in his power to further the interests of the section from which I come, as well as those of every other portion of the country, will, when the necessary information is procured, see the importance of completing this work, and thereby affording protection to a very large section of our people, the mariners, who navigate our inland waters.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the hon. gentleman for his opinion of my impartiality towards Ontario, as well as every other Province of the Dominion. That opinion is perfectly right. I do not look to the situation of any public work, but only to the requirements of the country. There has been a survey of the coast in question, and a report, I think—at all events there are notes of the engineer—from which I believe we can make out the result of his investigations. I cannot now say what the Government will do in the matter. Likely it would require a large sum to execute such a work. Though the finances of the country have improved largely of late, we cannot undertake in one year every public work that is necessary. We have to make a selection of the works most required. However, the matter will be investigated at the proper time. I have no objection to the motion.

Motion agreed to.

RAILWAYS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. DECOSMOS moved for a copy of all reports made by Mr. J. W. Trutch, respecting a railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo, and between Emory and Burrard Inlet. He said: It is not my intention to dwell at any length on the subject of this motion. It is an important one with respect to the western Province, but I will reserve my remarks upon these two sections of the Pacific Railway until the Estimates are under consideration. We want, however, the reports that have been communicated to the Government by Mr. Trutch, to be laid on the Table of the House, in order that we may intelligently discuss the matter in Committee of Supply. In looking over the report of the Minister of Railways, I do not find a single utterance with respect to these two sections, nor do I find anything in the appendices of the Chief Engineer. Under such circumstances it is quite natural that we should ask for the evidence in the hands of the Government, coming from the special agent of the Government, Mr. Trutch, and I trust the Government will bring it down.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have no objection to this report.

Motion agreed to.

INDIAN AFFAIRS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. DECOSMOS moved for a return containing all the correspondence that has passed between the Government and Mr. J. W. Trutch, since January, 1880, respecting Indian affairs in the Province of British Columbia. He

said: It is known that Mr. Trutch has corresponded with the Government on the subject of Indian affairs. It is known that he has made recommendations, and I know of no good and sufficient reason why his correspondence respecting Indian affairs should be withheld. There is good reason, on the contrary, why the correspondence should be laid on the Table of this House. I find in the Estimates that the sum of \$26,788 has been paid down for Indians; and I find opposite the names of the Indian Commissioners the sum of \$24,140, in all \$50,928. When the Province of British Columbia entered Canada, I believe the maximum amount was about \$500 or \$1,000, and since Confederation has been adopted \$50,528 have been put in the Estimates. I can assure the House the people of Columbia have no desire whatever to continue a system of expenditure in our country under which the Treasury will be depleted. The report sent by Mr. Trutch will, I hope, be brought down by the Government. But why Mr. Trutch should be selected instead of Col. Powell, an equally respectable, intelligent and well-educated gentleman, to make reports from British Columbia to the Department of the Interior, I do not know. In my opinion it is quite impossible that a person who is an irresponsible agent, as he appears to be from what we have heard to-day, should pass in reports influencing the affairs of a Province of the Dominion, and those reports not be laid before the House in due course. In dealing with the Estimates we want the fullest information that can be had, in order that we may deal with questions intelligently. Whether the reports are withheld or not, the agent of the Government has special objects in making his recommendations, and he recommends persons to fill offices which can be filled at a cheaper rate, with greater efficiency, than by the persons so recommended. I trust the report will be brought down.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am not going to discuss with the hon. gentleman whether the appointment of Mr. Trutch was a proper one or not. When that policy was submitted it was approved by Parliament and it will be maintained. As to the personal attack made by the hon. gentleman on Mr. Trutch, who is a man of high standing and unexceptionable character, I cannot understand the reason of it. As to this correspondence, any letter the submission of which will not be opposed to the public interest, I will bring down, but not a single letter which I think ought not to be brought down.

Mr. DECOSMOS. I was not aware that I made any personal attack on Mr. Trutch's character.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. You called him a spy.

Mr. DECOSMOS. I called him that. The people of British Columbia call him a spy, and I represent the people who do so.

Motion agreed to.

RAILWAY LANDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. DECOSMOS moved for a copy of all reports, correspondence and telegrams between Mr. J. W. Trutch and the Government respecting railway lands in British Columbia. He said: I desire to offer some remarks regarding this motion in order that I may place before the House a subject which has previously engaged its attention. In moving this resolution I feel I have an unpleasant duty to perform; nevertheless, I am prepared to make the motion, and not shrink from the discharge of my public duty. During last Session the members for British Columbia were alarmed by a statement made that application had been made by Mr. Trutch for all the arable lands in British Columbia, and unless those lands were transferred to the Dominion Government, the railway subsidy, so called, would be withdrawn. I was asked to telegraph to the Government of British Columbia and endeavor to persuade the Government