

Mr. MACKENZIE. I think we have done very well by the Island, and we have carried out the terms of Union to the utmost possible extent.

375. Construction of a race-way between the Welland Canal feeder and Chippewa River.....\$26,000

In reply to Mr. MACKENZIE,

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman will remember that when the enlargement of the Welland Canal was proceeded with a deputation waited upon him from the town of Welland, pointing out that the measures required to be taken on that occasion involved the destruction of the water power which they had at Welland. That water power having been destroyed it is proposed now that the supply be obtained from Lake Erie, and we can utilize the water power from the feeder without at all interfering with the supply to the canal, as that will no longer be required. Then it is proposed to restore the water power by bringing that supply from the feeder. This item is carrying out the proposal or application which was made to the hon. gentleman, and is in accordance with what he stated to a deputation who came from the town of Welland, that the subject would receive consideration when the supply from Lake Erie was obtained. It is for the purpose of obtaining that supply that this vote is asked for.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I expressed my opinion some evenings ago about the propriety of giving a supply of water from our canals for manufacturing purposes. I said I thought it was a great mistake, and if I were in office I would not allow it. We have suffered heavy losses on all our canals from this course, and we are sure to suffer more losses. I am surprised to find that this will be done by a wanton act, for it is not connected with the canal, it is a mere scheme to furnish water power to some people there. It may have something to do with the coming election in Welland, but it has nothing to do with the canal.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I may say to my predecessor that this is an entirely different question. I quite agreed with the statement he made on an entirely different subject, that it was improper to draw upon the supplies of the canals for water power in such a way as to obstruct and interfere with navigation. The hon. gentleman pointed out that currents were established which interfered with navigation, and I quite agreed that the primary object of the canals is for the purposes of navigation, and that no question of water power should be allowed to interfere with that primary object. This, however, is not drawing water from the Welland Canal at all; it is drawing water from the feeder which was required until the Lake Erie level was obtained, but it is not now required to supply the canal and does not in the slightest degree touch the use of the canal for navigation purposes, but it restores the water power destroyed by the construction of the aqueduct. It is an entirely different question, but, as the hon. gentleman stated, it could not be taken up until the Welland Canal had obtained the Lake Erie level and enabled that water to be drawn from the feeder without in the least degree interfering with navigation.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Why the Government should undertake to provide, from the Welland Canal, water power for manufacturers, is a matter I cannot understand. We require all the water for canal purposes. We were never under any obligation to furnish water power; we are entering into a transaction to furnish water power to manufacturers. It is no part of the Government's business to do that work, and if it is done on the Welland we must do it elsewhere.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. This is the only case.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I protest against Welland obtaining this concession unless it is made general. I object to the Mr. ANGLIN.

vote as one irreconcilable with the management of our public works.

Mr. McCALLUM. The Government is interested in the welfare of every town and village of the Dominion. The town of Welland enjoyed good water power, but the Government took that privilege from them. With respect to this vote, I believe \$26,000 will accomplish all the work required. As regards speculation, it will pay even when viewed from that standpoint, because it does not take any water from the canal, as since we have adopted the Lake Erie level we have the whole of the Grand River for water power, and the Government is acting wisely in assisting the people to take advantage of that power for manufacturing purposes.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The deputation that waited on the hon. member for Lambton, when he was destroying the water power of Welland and precipitating the community in grief at what was going to affect them so vitally, went away with the impression that when the hon. gentleman obtained the Lake Erie level he would be prepared to restore the water power from the feeder.

Mr. MACKENZIE. It is quite a mistake. I was desirous of complying, as far as the public interest would permit, with any reasonable request, and I could not do anything else but say that the subject would be considered at the proper time; but I never committed myself to furnishing water power from the canal, for such a project would be opposed to the views I adopted from my observations. This is to furnish water power for a particular locality. Why should not some commercial company undertake that duty?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. We charge for all the power.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Why does not a commercial company take it up?

376. Williamsburg Canal, construction of new weirs.....\$4,000

Mr. MACKENZIE. What is this amount for?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman is aware that while the Welland Canal has been deepened and measures have been taken to provide for ultimately attaining a depth of fourteen feet, by which vessels will come from Lake Erie to Kingston, and while measures have been taken to enlarge and deepen to the same extent the Lachine Canals, with the exception of the work at Cornwall, it has been proposed to defer the deepening of the St. Lawrence Canals and to depend at present upon the navigation which we have between these points, Kingston and Lachine. But it is found at this point there is not the same depth of water. This is the shallow point, and this expenditure of \$40,000 is to give us the same depth of water at that point that we have at all the other locks between Kingston and the Lachine Canal; and it is to overcome the shallowest point there, which is found to be an obstruction to navigation, that the expenditure will take place, in order to provide the same navigation at that point that there is above and below, and the work will all be useful should the programme of carrying out the deepening of the St. Lawrence Canals as contemplated by my predecessor at any time be proceeded with. It is a comparatively small expenditure for a very large and important object.

Mr. MACKENZIE. What is the depth of water at the mitre sills.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. As near as I can remember it varies from six to fifteen inches shallower than the balance of the canal either above or below.

377. St. Ann's Lock and Canal—Towards deepening the canal above the lock.....\$75,000

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. This work requires \$75,000 more, making \$150,000, to complete it. It is for aqueous rock excavation.