

directly out of the public Treasury. It was very unfair, therefore, that an advantage should be given to the brick-makers of a foreign country, to the exclusion of those in Nova Scotia, who were just as able to supply the market in St. John, as those in the United States. He held that, as money had been given from the public Treasury for the purpose of assisting the sufferers in St. John, the Government should have enabled the manufacturers of Nova Scotia at least to compete with those of the United States, and he felt certain that if equally favourable terms had been afforded to the Nova Scotia brick-makers, they could have sent bricks to that city at a reduced price.

MR. BURPEE said he need not enter into what his hon. friend had stated as to the sufferings endured by the people of St. John. Their people required the sympathy, not only of the House but of the country, and he was sure they got it. With regard to the importation of bricks, he might say that he did not know whether they were carried from the brick-yards of Nova Scotia direct to St. John, but if so, the cost would be a little more, if anything, than the freight from Boston. He was told several times that, while there building of St. John was going on, bricks were purchased from all quarters—from Nova Scotia as well as from the United States—as fast as they could be obtained. He had nothing more to say on that point; but with regard to the collection of revenue he might remark that, last fall, the insurance gave a very large increase to the circulation of money. He did think that, if there was an increase at all, a greater increase would take place in the first six months, and the six months following, and the same period following that again, while for the last one month or so there would be scarcely any increase at all. The spring trade would revive, and the first six months would probably enable people to restock their warehouses.

MR. MACKENZIE said that, as regarded the carrying of bricks, the hon. gentleman must be aware that it was a very heavy article to transport.

MR. TUPPER.

MR. PALMER said he was obliged to the hon. gentleman who had brought forward this motion, because he thought it was for the benefit of the country to know how much money the people of St. John had been taxed by reason of this fire; and while he was thankful to the Government for the small help they had rendered, yet, he thought that help fell far short of what the St. John people had a right to expect. It would be in the recollection of most hon. members that, during the fire in Quebec, in 1845, or about that time, the Government of Canada went to work and borrowed money, he believed, at five per cent. interest, and loaned something like \$400,000 at three per cent. interest, to aid the city of Quebec to repair the damage caused by the fire. They all knew that the sum granted by the Government to St. John was a mere nothing to the loss which had been sustained, besides which the Government had actually charged duty upon the materials used for repairing the damage. For this the people of St. John had actually been taxed to the extent of \$300,000. He held that every dollar of this sum ought to have been returned, if not by taking the duties off the goods, in some other form.

MR. MACKENZIE: How much did the insurance companies pay?

MR. PALMER: I do not know.

MR. CARTWRIGHT: Six millions.

MR. PALMER said he did not know what the amount paid by the insurance companies was, but he did not believe there was a single man insured to the extent of his goods, without the duty.

MR. MACKENZIE: I can only say to the hon. gentleman that some of the merchants told me they were.

MR. PALMER said he was satisfied the hon. the Premier had been misinformed. The amount of the insurance was about nine millions; of that, about one million was lost, on account of the insurance companies being unable to pay. Of course, it would be difficult to get at the actual loss, but, although everybody might be more or less insured, they would lose nearly 100 per cent. above the insurance. The whole of this amount of money had been