

enter into any discussion on the subject.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said he simply resented the remarks of the hon. member for South Waterloo.

Mr. YOUNG said the proper time to enter into a discussion was when the item came up in connection with the report of the sub-Committee. Nobody, however, was afraid of what the hon. gentleman did upon this or any other matter. They had found from long experience that his bark was worse than his bite.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said it had frequently been found that his bite was worse than his bark—at any rate his position in the House would compare very respectably with that of the hon. member for South Waterloo.

The item was allowed to stand.

Item 180, \$250,000 Intercolonial Railway, Quebec—was passed without discussion.

On item 181, \$200,000, Prince Edward Island Railway.

Mr. DOMVILLE said he understood at one time that this Railway had been taken over from the Local authorities, but he now understood that there was a heavy claim for extras by the contractors, Messrs. SCHREIBER and BURPEE.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said that was a subject with which the Government had nothing to do, but he never heard of the claim before. At the time of Confederation, the Island Government had two hundred miles of road under contract, there was no distinct arrangement made in regard to it, and the Local authorities were allowed to continue in charge of its construction, the Dominion Government paying upon their certificates. The entire amount thus paid was about \$44,000, and the final certificate of the engineer was being waited for. The Dominion Government had nothing to do with the contractors; they settled with the Island Government. The Dominion Government, however, had to take measures early last summer to prepare for working the road, and certain expenditures had been incurred upon that account. The money asked now was for the working of the road, and had no connection with the claims of contractors. He added, in reply to a few other questions, that preparations were made for obtaining further locomotive power, in

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addition to maintaining those they already had.

Mr. DOMVILLE said he was informed that there six locomotives on the railway that were of very little use. The Dominion Government had to assure the bonds provided to meet the cost of building the road. The Government of Prince Edward Island gave a contract to Messrs. SCHREIBER and BURPEE to build a railway which, when the Island came into Confederation, was paid for by bonds issued by the Dominion Government, and yet the House was now informed that several of the locomotives were worn out. Either the Island Government or the contractors were answerable for placing the railway in such a position, that no repairs to locomotives would be required or new locomotives purchased.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the contract was not made with the Dominion Government. Mr. SWINYARD was sent to the Island last summer by this Government to make a thorough inspection of the road. They subsequently sent down another engineer. As Mr. BOYD, the engineer of the Island Government, was employed by them and not by the Dominion Government, and Mr. GREGORY, the contractors' engineer, was partially employed as foreman to the contractors, so that it was desirable in the public interest to have a thorough inspection of the road made by an independent engineer appointed by this Government. A statement of the result of that inspection and all the details connected with it was now being printed, and he hoped it would be distributed in a few days. There are fourteen locomotives, six heavy, four comparatively light, or too light for general traffic, and the others are of medium sizes.

Mr. DOMVILLE hoped the papers which the Government would bring down would contain all the particulars in regard to the transfer of the railway to the Dominion Government.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said there were no papers connected with the transfer. The moment the contract was finished the road was handed over to the Dominion as a matter of course, but they had no power to compel the Island Government to do anything.

Mr. DOMVILLE hoped the Dominion was not compelled to receive the railway in any condition in which the contractors