

Mr. DESJARDINS. It is not immigrants that we want to get from France, so much as to establish trade relations with her as well as with other European countries. The hon. gentleman ought to know that efforts are now being made to establish direct steam communication between France and Canada, that a large amount of French capital has already been invested in Canada through the instrumentality of Mr. Fabre. If the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Royal) was here, he could tell the hon. gentleman that in the North-West Territories French capitalists have invested large sums of money, thanks to the information they have received from the agency that we have established in Paris, and that they will be instrumental in sending here a desirable class of settlers. We have the Crédit Foncier, and we may reasonably expect that through Mr. Fabre's efforts we shall soon have more extended commercial relations with France, and I do not know that we should lose anything by it. It is true that it is France; but, after all, France is a country with which we can have communication without Canada suffering in its credit, whatever the gentlemen opposite may think to the contrary.

Mr. McLELAN. In addition to the information given by Mr. Fabre to the people of France respecting Canada, I know that a large number of Canadians visit Paris every year, and that every day in the year Mr. Fabre is called upon to give them information to enable them to prosecute their journey; and if he did nothing more than this, I think the money would be well spent.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Whose servant is Mr. Fabre, in reality? Does he not receive a salary from the Local Government also?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think so.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Practically, he is a servant, I take it, of the Local Government, rather than ours.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They appointed him, no doubt, and we assist his salary, in order that he may be utilised by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and by the Minister of Agriculture.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If any good work can be done in the way of facilitating connections between this country and France, I have no objection to it. I agree with my hon. friend who has just spoken, that the old times and the historic association which subsisted so long between Lower Canada and France are of a character which might warrant parties in introducing—I do not think many immigrants—but possibly a considerable amount of French capital into this country, and if Mr. Fabre can contribute to that, I am not disposed to grudge a reasonable vote for it. But we have a right to know how far he has succeeded in securing the introduction of French capital into this country, and until the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Desjardins) spoke, no information was forthcoming on that head. When we get to concurrence, it may be desirable to say something more on this item.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is quite clear that we ought to call on Mr. Fabre to make an annual report for what he has done for his salary?

Mr. DESJARDINS. Reports have been regularly sent in by Mr. Fabre.

Hudson's Bay Route Expedition..... \$30,000.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is going to be done with that sum?

Mr. McLELAN. The ship has gone out there, with additional observers to be stationed there, and to bring away those who were there. It is thus intended to make the survey as complete as possible.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What time did she start?

Mr. McLELAN. In May.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Has the hon. gentleman had any advice from her.

Mr. McLELAN. I had an advice from a point on the Labrador coast. There is no means of again communicating with her until she returns.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Is this supposed to complete the survey?

Mr. McLELAN. No; she will have to go out again next year, to bring back those who remain this winter.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The intention is to make a test covering three seasons.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is the intention. It is supposed that three seasons will show any important change in climatic conditions.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How many stations were established?

Mr. McLELAN. Six stations were established last season. One will be abandoned, and it is proposed to continue five stations this winter. There will be two winters' observations and three summers' observations.

Mr. DAWSON. Has the hon. gentleman ordered an exploration to be made of the Ungava channel.

Mr. McLELAN. My attention has been called to that matter. If opportunity permits, some observations will be made there during this season.

Extra Clerks to prepare Returns..... \$10,000

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Is it the intention that the staff shall be employed so that all returns ordered this Session will be ready when Parliament meets next year, because many returns were not ready this year.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The practice has been to again move for returns that have not been brought down.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There are now about 100 returns that have not been brought down. If this amount of \$10,000 is voted, we shall expect the clerks to be employed during the recess in getting returns ready.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Then, I understand that if this vote of \$10,000 is passed, we may expect to get all the returns ordered by the House this Session when we meet again next year.

Mr. MILLS. It would be well if this could be done. I moved for returns early in February. None have come down, with one exception, and that in a mutilated condition.

Commercial Agencies..... \$10,000

Mr. BOWELL. This is a new item, to cover the cost of obtaining statistical information in regard to the trade of the country.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is a curious heading.

Mr. BOWELL. Yes; it is, perhaps.

Mr. MILLS. It seems that this information belongs to the Department of the Minister of Agriculture. We have had a volume brought down to us on this subject which was wholly unreliable, so much so that anyone knowing anything about his own constituency found that the information was utterly worthless.

Mr. WILSON. I think we should have some further information on this subject, as in the volume referred to a very small portion of the Dominion was considered at all, and no dependence could be placed on the information contained in it. Under these circumstances, it is rather unreasonable to ask for this sum.