

Mr. MACKENZIE said that this occurred in the fall of 1873 and in the winter of 1874. It related to Mr. Rothery's expenses; not to those of the Joint High Commission.

Mr. MITCHELL: Have we paid those expenses?

Mr. MACKENZIE: Yes.

Mr. MITCHELL said that not one dollar of this sum should ever have been paid. He now learnt of it for the first time; a more useless expenditure had never been made. He could not understand why it was necessary to employ four legal gentlemen in preparing this case for the Commission, as the consequent expenses would be very great. He believed that the Bill which would have to be paid would be such as would not only astonish the British, but also the American Government. The Minister of Finance had chosen to refer in a jocular way to the amount he had had the honour to claim that these fisheries were worth to Canada. He made it on statistics and facts furnished by officers of the Department, and he did not believe that the value was at all exaggerated. He also believed that this valuation had been confirmed by the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He did not object to the rate asked, but he did not think that they should be extravagant. He knew that officers in the Department possessed more information and talent, serviceable in this regard, than any outside talent in the whole of Canada. One or two solicitors were sufficient. He recollected, however, that fault had been found with him for paying some \$400 to the Hon. Wm. McDougall for gathering information in the archives of London. He had been attacked for this by the hon. member for North York, who was backed up by the gentlemen on the Treasury benches, because that sum had been appropriated in advance; and yet he found in the Public Accounts that sums had already been paid in this relation for preliminary meetings.

Mr. TUPPER said he was open to correction, but he was satisfied that the hon. gentleman was mistaken in the statement that had been made.

Mr. MITCHELL.

Mr. Rothery had come to Canada during the crisis in which the late Government fell; he had not visited Washington at all; and he (Mr. Tupper) believed it would be found that not one dollar of the expenditure mentioned had been incurred by the late Administration.

Mr. SMITH (Westmoreland): The arrangement on which he was paid was made by your Government.

Mr. TUPPER said he would be satisfied of this when the hon. gentleman gave evidence of it. He knew of no such arrangement. He spoke, however, from memory on the point. As far as the Joint High Commission proper was concerned, the expenditure was borne by the Imperial Government; and the expenditure attending this sequence should also be so borne. This, however, would not preclude them from spending money in getting up the case, in order to present it as strongly as possible. The amount in question was insignificant compared with the results aimed at. He wished, while upon this subject, to draw attention to an important error into which the First Minister had fallen with relation to the Washington Treaty. The hon. gentleman had declared, in the most emphatic terms, in the House, that the Washington Treaty surrendered the canals of Canada irretrievably, and placed their control entirely beyond our jurisdiction. The hon. gentleman was entirely mistaken. The hon. gentleman had stated:

"We find ourselves, in consequence of that Treaty of Washington, placed in an invidious position in regard to several matters. There is a direct advantage given to the United States in regard to the canal navigation that no legislative and no administrative action of ours can ever possibly overcome. When the hon. gentleman came back from Washington, he boasted that he had obtained the free navigation of the Yukon, the Stikien and the Porcupine, and for this he gave away the free navigation of the magnificent St. Lawrence; he being actually in a state of supreme ignorance of the fact that we had the navigation of those rivers before then, by a Treaty with Russia in 1825, and in a more complete way too. We had the navigation of the northern rivers of this continent, not only for commercial purposes, but for every other purpose; and yet the hon. gentleman gave away the free navigation of the St. Lawrence to obtain navigation of these rivers for com-