

nothing had been done for New Brunswick, and he believed the real reason why the work was delayed was that which he had mentioned.

MR. BURPEE (St. John) said he rose to answer the question regarding the excessive amount of the collections at St. John. He thought that amount would spread over one and a half or two years, or perhaps longer, before the increase would be made up. Up to the present time, so far as any neglect of duty was concerned, he did not think any blame was attachable either to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries or himself. The work had been done as fast as possible, and as there was no want of labour in St. John—everybody being able to obtain employment—there was no ground for complaint in that respect. Of course, he should like to see the buildings gone on with, and as the foundations had now been laid, no time would be lost when the plans were received. He was satisfied there had been no dereliction of duty on the part of the Government.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said it had been stated by the hon. the First Minister that the delay of the work would be more likely to operate against the Government than its speedy prosecution. Now, at his last election at Kingston, it was suddenly discovered that there was an immediate necessity to pull down the Market Battery, situated about twenty yards from where the election was taking place. The workmen of Kingston were told that they could get work; they were at once marched off and were soon engaged in pulling down the Market Battery and repairing the Fort, which it had been found at that particular moment requisite to do. True it was that, soon after the election was over, the zeal and interest taken in the work waxed very thin indeed, and he had no doubt that, just as that work was undertaken in Kingston for the purpose of defeating him, so the Conservative candidate for the city of St. John would find that the Government work there would be proceeded with, and that workmen—masons, carpenters and bricklayers—could have plenty of employment, at election time.

MR. MACKENZIE: That is very small.

MR. TUPPER said the House would hardly agree with the hon. the Minister of Customs that any portion of the increased revenue should be deducted in consequence of the ratio of increase in other towns and cities. Every person must, he thought, arrive at the conclusion that a great calamity like the fire at St. John would, while rendering necessary the importation of a large amount of goods to supply the necessities of the case, impair the ability of the importers. Great loss would be suffered by the trading community of St. John and those who purchased goods—so great, indeed, would be the loss that any natural increase would be prevented. On the contrary, nothing like the same amount of natural importation could be looked for, and he held that all the increase must be attributed to the great calamity which overtook that city. Throughout the country the sympathy for the sufferers was universal, and the only failing was the inability of the Government to meet the exigencies of the occasion. The very fact that the necessities of the case would involve such a large increase of the revenue of the country, made it desirable that the Government, with the means of meeting the distress thus occasioned, should have given a much larger and more liberal contribution than was made. He thought they would have met with the heartiest support of every person if they had exhibited greater liberality than they exhibited on that occasion. He wished, at that moment, to draw the attention of the Government to what he thought was a very unfair discrimination made in connection with the assistance which they furnished to the people of the United States in preference to the subjects of the Dominion. The demand for building material after the fire was very great, and it was thought desirable that those who had suffered enormous losses, and who, consequently, possessed only diminished means, should be relieved as much as possible, and it was resolved to remit the duty on bricks imported into St. John. That remission was made in order that the city might be rebuilt, and the assistance came