

April 22, 1874

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the subject had engaged the anxious consideration of the Government on several occasions lately, and they had decided some days ago to submit a measure to the House in order to provide some system of investing the money derived from this source in a special fund. (*Hear, hear.*) He explained that in reference to Logan's Farm, near Montreal, which was formerly let at a mere nominal rent, the Government had now to redeem it for ten times the money formerly paid, making a special provision that whenever they wanted to take possession of it they could do so upon a day's notice. He stated that the late Government had sold the property at London for 50 per cent less than its value, although, he admitted, there was a stipulation attached that it was only to be used as a public park. The property in Chatham was not needed for military purposes, and it might fairly be put in the market.

In any case where public bodies required a small amount of land, it would be well to give it them at a valuation, but when disposing of it to private parties, it should always be put up at public auction. In this case, if the Town Council desired to purchase it, their desire would receive full consideration at the hands of the Government. In no case would it be sold to private parties without being advertised for public competition.

Mr. STEPHENSON said the Corporation of Chatham would pay as much for this property as anybody else, and he thought they should have the first chance of purchase. For his part, he would desire to see the land reserved for military purposes, and he was sure that the Volunteers of the County of Chatham desired to have the land reserved for that object.

Mr. MILLS said he knew something of the transaction referred to. The County Council of Kent was not satisfied with its present registry office, thinking it was in too close proximity to other buildings, and without sufficient protection to the public documents it contained against destruction by fire. Several parties were willing and anxious to sell property to them for that purpose, but desired to have an exorbitant price for it. The public convenience would be consulted by selling them this site for their Registry Office, and the value of the property would really be enhanced by the erection of the building upon it.

Mr. WALKER defended the late Government with regard to the sale of the Ordnance Lands in London, and asserted that their City Council had not a particularly good bargain of it after all.

The motion was then carried.

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MONTREAL HARBOUR COMMISSION

Mr. RYAN moved for copies of all correspondence between the Government and Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, with a copy of the letters of dismissal of Messrs. Delisle, Workman, Hudon and Ryan from the said Commission; also for copies of any letters and telegrams on the same subject between the Hon. Messrs. Mackenzie and Dorion and the Hon. John Young, one of the Harbour Commissioners.

In speaking to his motion, he, in somewhat warm terms, detailed the proceedings which took place before the Montreal Harbour

Board. He contended that, on the demand of the Government, this Board gave to the Government what they considered most ample and satisfactory information, and indeed with good grounds, for, on the application of the Secretary to Government for some little money to pay for extra expenses, it was cheerfully accorded; but, since then, they had received from the Minister of Public Works such a letter as no gentleman would send to his lackey, putting certain questions which he here read to the House. He (Mr. Ryan) argued that the Board had made the best bargain possible, not only on the ground of cheapness, but on the ground of the obtainment of the dredges without any possible delay.

In the course of his remarks he inveighed against the Hon. John Young as the cause of the trouble and also charged the Government with acting discourteously to the Board. He continued to say that, although "to the victors belonged the spoils" and it was perfectly legitimate for them to remove himself and his colleagues, he thought that they should not by subterfuge endeavour to fasten upon them unwarranted charges. He congratulated himself and the members of the House that the course of the Government did not meet with the approval of the City of Montreal, as was evidenced at the late meeting of the Board of Trade, when the then President brought the matter before that body.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE took Mr. Ryan severely to task for his attack on Mr. Young, which he said he would not have dared to make had the latter been present. He styled the attack as gross and scandalous. With regard to Mr. Ryan's pretension that Messrs. Lynardo & Co.'s offer had not been a tender, he quoted from the minutes of the Harbour Board to show that they had treated it as a tender. He censured the Board for nothing special, excepting their giving of the contracts to parties who had endeavoured to cheat the country, and at the same time drew attention to the fact of the Board treating people from England and Scotland as foreigners, when, at this time, they gave a contract to people in the United States. He thought, in view of the fact, it was high time for the Government to interfere. He denied that he had been discourteous to the Board, and concluded that, if Mr. Ryan were not satisfied with the course which had been pursued, he could take any step he thought proper to test public opinion. He had no objection to this motion.

Mr. RYAN made a few remarks in reply.

The motion was then carried.

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SANITARY STATISTICS

Mr. BROUSE moved for a Select Committee to consider the propriety of asking for legislation with a view to establishing a Bureau of Sanitary Statistics, the said Committee to be composed of Messrs. Holton, Pâquet, Robitaille, Mills, Ferguson, Forbes, Burpee (Sunbury), De Cosmos, Dymond, Cameron (Huron South), Cunningham, De St-Georges, and Brouse. He pointed out that a deeper interest was manifested in this question now than formerly. In Montreal, a Sanitary Association had been established, the result of which had been very satisfactory. The sphere of such local Associations was, however, limited, and it was desired to establish a Central Board at Ottawa, where a storehouse of useful