

charges were made against himself, with a view of vindicating his character against those charges, then it is not within the powers conferred by statute, and is in contravention of the law of Parliament, and the elementary principles of law and justice. I ask that the information may be brought down at an early day, in order that a motion may be founded upon the subject and the views of Parliament taken upon it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I merely rise for the purpose of asking the hon. gentleman to correct the statement he has just made; that is, that I stated that the Commission was issued for the purpose of defending myself against charges made against myself. I never made any such statement.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. This is an old friend with a new face, and I am glad to see it again. It will answer, however, no good purpose to discuss the matter until the papers are brought down. They will be brought down at once. I do not remember the terms of the Commission. Every hon. member ought to have the Commission and the Act before him and see whether the Commission is in accordance with the Act, with the powers given by the Act or not. We will all have, when the papers are brought down, an opportunity of considering the able speech of my hon. friend from Bothwell on the subject.

Motion agreed to.

THE CONSOLIDATED FUND.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT moved for a return of receipts and expenditures, in detail, chargeable to the Consolidated Fund, from 1st July to 1st December, in the year 1879 and 1880 respectively.

Motion agreed to.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT moved for a return of exports and imports, in detail, from 1st July to 1st December, in the years 1879 and 1880 respectively; showing the countries whence and to which the same were respectively exported or imported.

Mr. BOWELL said it would be impossible to produce the return asked for until a very late period of the Session. He suggested that instead of 1st December, the final date be 31st December.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT accepted the suggestion, and the motion thus amended was agreed to.

CATTLE AND SHEEP EXPORT TRADE.

Mr. DOMVILLE, on rising to move for a Select Committee to enquire into the export trade of cattle and sheep from Canada to Europe, and how it can be further developed and fostered, said: Since putting this notice on the paper, I have learnt it would be more acceptable to have referred the matter to the Immigration and Colonization Committee. I did not think so in entering the motion, because I thought it was a subject that might be kept entirely clear of other questions, in order that information might be obtained in as practicable a shape as possible for the benefit of the cattle and sheep traders throughout the Dominion, especially in the Lower Provinces, where the feeling is, that if this subject were given some consideration we, being nearer the sea than other portions of the Dominion, and having less distances to drive our cattle and sheep in order to reach the sea-board than have the graziers in the far west, were in a superior position to do the trade, and only required some information and encouragement to make better use of our facilities. We need a line of steamers for the trade, and I thought by bringing up the subject before the House, the Government would, on acquiring the needed information, lend us some assistance in the development of the trade; but as I am told

Mr. MILLS.

it would be far better the subject should go before the Committee of Immigration and Colonization, I beg to withdraw the motion.

Mr. ANGLIN. Before the hon. gentleman obtains leave to withdraw the motion I would suggest to him to consider whether it would not be better to bring the subject before the House in some other form. If the matter is referred to one of the large committees, the chances are we shall not have a report until the end of the Session, when it will be too late for the House to take any action. The hon. gentleman could tell the House how much the persons engaged in that trade in the Lower Provinces have suffered during the past season, through being obliged to transport their cattle to Quebec, where they are received on board the steamers. I trust the hon. gentleman will give the matter such consideration as will lead him to bring the subject before the House in another form. A resolution, asking the opinion of the House, asking the House to declare that it was but just and reasonable that the Government should render such assistance to the lower ports in this matter, as would enable them to establish lines of steamers for the purpose of carrying on this cattle trade, and other trades now awaiting development, would be, perhaps, the most feasible way of arriving at a satisfactory result. I only throw out the suggestion; I do not want to interfere in the matter.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It seems to me the hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville) has taken the right course. It would be better to get the evidence first before the Committee and then introduce resolutions founded upon the evidence. It is quite true that the final reports of Standing Committees are brought in late in the session, but the committees have power, in the meantime, to report from time to time, and I have no doubt this is a question in which the Committee will appoint a sub-committee to take up, and report upon, early in the Session. My hon. friends, the members for King's and Gloucester, could be put on the Standing Committee so as to form part of the sub-committee appointed to enquire into this question.

Motion withdrawn.

WRECKAGE IN CANADIAN WATERS.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex), moved for all the evidence collected in regard to wreckage in Canadian waters, particularly on the shores of Lakes Erie, Ontario and Huron, and rivers St. Clair and Detroit; also, a statement of the money expended and to whom paid for collecting the same.

Mr. BOWELL. If the hon. member had stated what he expected to obtain by this motion, I should have been better able to inform him as to whether there was any information in the department. I am not aware of any information, or any statement of expenses incurred in connection with wreckage, other than what was laid before the House last Session.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). I understood that a gentleman was appointed for the purpose of travelling along the frontier, on the Canadian side, and collecting information as to the number of wrecks which have taken place within the last eight or nine years. It is of great importance that the inland navigation of the country, which forms a large part of our commerce, should be adequately protected, and it was with the view of learning what information had been collected, bearing on the prevention of wrecks, that I put my motion on the paper.

Mr. BOWELL. It is true that a gentleman was appointed to make enquiry as to the number of wrecks along the shores of Lake Erie and the head of Lake Ontario. His report was presented to the House, I think, last Session. The only information asked for in this motion which was not laid before the House, was a statement of the expense, which I will bring down.