

port of the Maritime Provinces. If it is in Nova Scotia, naturally New Brunswick gets her share of the business and *vice versa*. But for us to be left in a state of suspense is damaging to trade in the Lower Provinces. I cannot for a moment believe, that the result we fear will actually take place, namely, that the trade of the North-West will be diverted from the Lower Provinces after we have spent so much money to build up that great country under the National Policy. I, therefore, feel it my duty, in the meanwhile, to move for these papers, in order that we may have before us all the information in the possession of the Government and elicit from the proper quarter some details as to what is likely to be the final determination in the matter. As I stated before, I do not believe for one moment that it is the intention of the Government to allow the Lower Provinces to be cut off from all benefit from the trade of the North-West; because we were led to believe, when we entered Confederation, that our towns in the Lower Provinces should become the Liverpool's of the Dominion, and that our seaports would receive the trade coming over the great inter-provincial line from British Columbia. Therefore, without saying anything else, and without knowing exactly what may have passed between the petitioners and the Government, I beg to move for these papers.

Motion agreed to.

PROVINCIAL CONSTITUTIONS.

Mr. MACKENZIE moved for charters or constitutions granted by the Crown or the Imperial Parliament to the Provinces of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Vancouver Island; also, copies of all Acts, charters, royal instructions, commissions, Orders in Council or despatches, altering or amending the same, as originally granted, or conferring or withdrawing any political rights or privileges before or after the granting of such charters. He said: My object in moving for these documents is to endeavor to obtain, in some comprehensive form, copies of all such documents relating to the early history of the country as are mentioned in the motion. It is, at present, I believe, impossible to obtain in the Library here, copies of many of those original documents, which should be accessible to every one. I have consulted the Librarian in regard to the matter since putting the notice on the paper, and he informs me that some of the documents may be amongst the archives in one of the other Departments; and, if so, I think they should be lodged with the Librarian or put in his charge. Some of the privileges conferred on these colonies were conferred simply by a despatch. In several cases the original Local Assemblies were only convened on the authority of a despatch. That despatch, of course, conferred certain political rights, which will not be found in the particular charter respecting that Province. It appears to me that it would be exceedingly desirable to have all such documents bound in one volume together, and if the hon. gentleman opposite would give his attention to the matter, as I think he will, such a volume would be a welcome addition to the historical documents in the possession of Parliament.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I was under the impression that all such documents were in some part or other of the numerous publications we have in the Library; but I find that the hon. gentleman has ascertained that that is not the case. Of course the object of the motion is one which I think of very great importance indeed, and the only thing to be considered is the best way of collecting these documents. Might not the best means of getting them be through the Library Committee?

Mr. MACKENZIE. It might be.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Those who make collations of these documents will know how many there are and what ones are wanting, and I have no doubt they can be procured from the different colonies, from England, or perhaps from the Departments here, or in Toronto. I quite agree that the object is one of sufficient importance to warrant the hon. gentleman in making the motion, and I shall be glad to give him every assistance in carrying it out.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Mr. MACKENZIE moved for copies of all statements, showing approximate quantities of the several classes of work, which were submitted to any parties tendering for the construction of the railway between Port Moody and Yale; also copies of any conditions imposed upon tenderers other than those asserted in any public advertisement asking for tenders. He said: I have observed, in some of the public newspapers, statements to the effect that the hon. the Minister of Railways had procured an approximate estimate of the work on the Port Moody and Emory's Bar section of the Canadian Pacific Railway, subsequent to the publishing to intending tenderers, of the one upon which the tenders were supposed to have been made. I make no charge of the kind myself, but I have seen the statement published broadly in the newspapers, and I have moved for copies of all such approximate estimates in order to ascertain whether any such documents exist, and whether, if such calculations were made, any of the contractors received information from them which others did not receive. The tenders were accepted in a lump sum, and therefore, information of this kind would be of the utmost value to all intending contractors, and if any one obtained possession of information which was not in the possession of every one of the parties tendering, the only thing that can be done, and ought to be done, is to cancel the whole contract and ask for tenders afresh. I will not touch on other points connected with the letting of this contract, because I intend to do that at a subsequent period and in another way.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I may say, in reference to this matter, that the hon. gentleman will require to change his motion in order to obtain any of the papers, because there are no such papers as the motion refers to. There are no "statements showing approximate quantities submitted to any parties tendering." The Department distinctly avoided submitting quantities of work to any parties, and all parties were alike authorized to obtain any information that was in the possession of the Department by looking at the statement of estimates and quantity of work made by the engineers. If the hon. gentleman will strike out the words "submitted to any parties, &c.," I will have great pleasure in bringing down all the papers to which the motion refers. But as no papers were submitted to any parties tendering it would be impossible to bring them down. The papers containing all the information in the possession of the engineer in charge of this work were at the service and disposal of any intending contractor, and he could have access to them, and could see them in the Department. All the tenderers were informed to that effect, and all were treated, as I need not tell the hon. gentleman, in precisely the same manner.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I am willing that the motion should be changed as the Minister suggests.

Mr. BLAKE. Were the papers seen by the parties?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes; by all intending tenderers. They were all informed of the plans, estimates and profiles; everything showing the quantities of the work as ascertained by the surveyors was at the dis-