

April 29, 1874

of obtaining immediate information, but he could only say that they would be willing to do anything in their power to meet the view of the class to which his hon. friend referred.

The matter was then dropped.

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### SUPPLY

The House went into Committee of Supply.

The item of \$15,000 for Miscellaneous Works on Canals was passed, as also the item of \$449,125 for Public Buildings at Ottawa. As to the grounds, \$75,000.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** explained that it was proposed to extend the western block in the direction of the buildings recently destroyed by fire, in order to provide sufficient accommodation for the offices of the Departments. The Government had also determined to build double partition walls, with iron doors, in order to prevent the extension of a fire, if such should take place.

In reference to the improvement of the grounds in front of the Parliament Buildings, he said he had little information to give.

Mr. Marshall Wood, a sculptor from England, seemed to be entrusted with the progress and planning of the works; but he (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) had not seen Mr. Wood since he came into office, and believed he was not now in the country. He had not been able to find out what were Mr. Wood's instructions or what the exact nature of his duties, which seemed to him to be that of architect or landscape gardener. He added that a claim for \$1,500 had been made upon the government by a New York architect for a plan furnished for laying out these grounds.

**Mr. WRIGHT (Pontiac)** then introduced the subject of the want of accommodation in the Commons Chamber, suggesting, as had been done last year, that the library be taken as the Commons Chamber, for which he believed it was admirably suited.

The item was then carried.

Items \$50,000 for a bridge over the Red River at Fort Garry, and \$67,500 for Lake Superior and Red River route construction, were passed.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said this last was intimately connected with the Dawson route, but he hoped materially to reduce the amount, the Government now having contracts under consideration for the general work of the Dawson route.

In the course of speaking to the different items,

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said it was necessary to curtail as much as possible the public expenditure.

The following items passed:—For the improvement of rivers, \$90,500; roads and bridges (Lake Superior and Red River route), \$196,500.

On the item of \$1,035,100 for Public buildings the following items were adopted; public buildings, Ontario \$295,800; public buildings, Quebec \$321,100; public buildings, New Brunswick, \$94,000; public buildings, Nova Scotia, \$58,000; public buildings,

Manitoba, \$103,200; public buildings, British Columbia, \$163,000. For repairs, et cetera, \$190,000; for harbours and piers, Ontario, \$506,000; harbours and piers, Quebec, \$21,800; harbours and piers, New Brunswick, \$109,500; harbours and piers, Nova Scotia, \$112,500; harbours and piers, Cape Breton, \$55,500.

On the item of \$1,035,100 for Public Buildings,

**Mr. WOOD (Hamilton)** asked what the additional vote for the Hamilton Post Office was for.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said it was for a large sorting room in the rear.

**Mr. WILKES** asked if the Government intended to acquire any land at the rear of the Toronto Custom House.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said the Government had taken a great deal of trouble to find more land than was to be obtained at the present site. They had determined to build on the land to the rear of the Custom House.

In answer to Mr. Smith (Selkirk),

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said the Government did intend to proceed with the Manitoba Custom House and Post Office this year.

In answer to Hon. Mr. Mitchell,

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said the contracts for the Ottawa Post Office and Custom House were being let.

**Mr. PATERSON** asked if there were any hopes of the creation of some new buildings in Brantford.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said the Government would meet the public accommodation so far as required, and he did not think it would be wise or right to hold out hopes that buildings would be erected simply to meet the wishes of any particular locality.

**Mr. DAVIES** said he did not see anything in the estimates for Prince Edward Island. It was rumoured that the late Government had promised to erect ten lighthouses on the coast of the Island. These lighthouses were not of much importance to the inhabitants of the Island but as the Island lay well in the channel of the St. Lawrence, they were of importance to the public generally. He thought at least five or six lighthouses were absolutely necessary.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said the Government intended to carry out whatever might be necessary in the interest of the public in this direction. It was true that an Order in Council had been passed for ten lighthouses in Prince Edward Island, and it was commendable that the late Government had shown so much industry as they had during the last week in October in passing not only this, but so many Orders in Council of a similar character, when they had so much other matter to occupy their attention. (*Hear, hear, and laughter.*) It so happened that there was nothing to require immediate expenditure on public buildings on that Island, but the Government would carry out all requisite works.

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** said he thought only eight or nine lighthouses were put down in the Order in Council, but if the number was ten there was not one that was not required.