

CUSTOMS REVENUES ON HUDSON'S BAY.

Mr. BANNERMAN moved for a return showing the amount received for duties at the ports of Moose, York and Churchill, during the years 1876 to 1881, inclusive; also the amount paid to Customs officers at the several ports. He said: I wish to call the attention of the Government thoroughly to this matter, as I have been informed that there is something going on in that country against the interests of Canada, and the sooner it is remedied the better. During the last eight or ten years a large and increasing trade has been done in Hudson's Bay. By a return to the American Government, we find that in 1880 between \$600,000 and \$700,000 worth of furs, whalebone and oil was exported from Hudson's Bay into the United States in foreign vessels. These vessels trade there with the native population without restraint, and without contributing to the revenues of this country, whereas the Hudson's Bay Company, which is now a Canadian company, has to make returns and pay Customs duties the same as any other mercantile firm in the country. Furthermore, these foreigners have taken possession of a most important point, in fact, the key to the northern portion of Hudson's Bay, and that is the Marble Island. They have built large storehouses there, and are doing a larger business on the shores of the bay than the Hudson's Bay Company. A further evidence of the grievance that the Hudson's Bay Company have against the Government of Canada for not protecting their interests there, is this: that when the United States Government bought the Territory of Alaska from the Russian Government, the Hudson's Bay Company had six or seven posts in that territory. They were given twenty-four hours notice to leave the country; they were allowed nothing for their improvements, and they had not time to take away their provisions or goods, and had to leave them there, and they became the property of the companies whom the American Government allowed to trade there. I, therefore, think it the duty of the Government to protect any parties of Canadians who are trading in that country, and not allow American traders to enjoy greater privileges than our own people. I would suggest to the right hon. leader of the Government the advisability of combining the geological surveys of that country with the collections of Customs duties, and of sending a revenue cutter to see that justice is done. If this suggestion is carried out, I have no doubt it will be found to work successfully. I find that \$1,800 is paid annually in commissions on the collection of revenue in the North-West, and I should like to know what percentage of commission is paid to those who are acting as Customs officers in that district. I think there are only two or three who are so paid, while something like \$15,000 or \$20,000 are collected annually there from the Hudson's Bay Company. I am satisfied that if the Government appointed a Customs officer, and used the proper appliances, the revenues of that country would be doubled, and the Government would be repaid for the extra expense incurred. But I maintain that the Government has a right to protect the interests of the traders in that country, whether at a loss or not, and the only way to do that is to send a revenue cutter there, which, I think, would put an end to the matter.

Motion agreed to.

MONEY ORDERS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Mr. FARROW, in moving for a return showing the amount of moneys sent from Canada by post office money order to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the United States, and to all other countries during the past year 1881, also the cost of the same, said: Last year I moved for a similar return, and whether the return ever came down or not I cannot tell—all I

can say is, that I never saw it. I consider this a very important matter, as both those who send money and those to whom it is sent are interested in it. When this return comes down it will probably be seen that a vast amount of money is sent in this way from this country to the United Kingdom, and in moving for this order I know I am acting according to the wishes of the vast majority of the hard workingmen of Canada. I have not a word to say against the money order system as in operation between this country and the United States. Most of the arrangements are good, while, at the same time, they are practical, convenient and cheap. But what I have to complain of is this: that while we charge only a small percentage on money going to the United States, even to extreme points, such as San Francisco on the west and New Orleans on the south, it is entirely different when you come to send money by post office order to the United Kingdom. I am very glad to know that when the Government came into power and enacted the National Policy, if they discriminated in favor of one country over another, it was in favor of Great Britain. The Government had an eye to that, and all their prognostications as to the results have been fulfilled. Our trade with the United States has been, in a great measure, dropping off, while our trade with the Old Country has been increasing. We want the Government to consider this postal question in this light: that whatever may be the cost of sending money to the United States, it shall be sent as cheaply to the United Kingdom. I believe this is the wish of the House and of the country, and I do not see why it should not be carried out. I hope the Government will take this matter into their serious consideration, and that we will shortly see regulations adopted in that direction. There are two reasons why the charges should be made similar. The Old Country is not a foreign country. We all pride ourselves that we belong to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. We belong to the fatherland; the majority of us are either English, Irish or Scotch, and we are proud of our connection with Great Britain. The United States, on the other hand, is a foreign country, and the money we send there goes into their coffers. The money we send to the Old Country is generally the savings of those who have come out here, and it is sent for the assistance of fathers, mothers, sisters or dependent relatives, to whom a few pounds sent from Canada is of great benefit. But the greater part of the money sent is for emigration purposes. Many a father comes out to this country alone, because he is only able to pay for himself. He works with determination for a year or two, and when he has acquired a few hundred dollars he sends for his wife and children. Under these circumstances, I trust the Government will seriously consider the matter, and at once apply a remedy.

Mr. HESSON. I desire to endorse the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for North Huron. It will be the opinion of the House, and of the constituencies which we represent, that this question is one of very great importance, and that it is not sufficient that the papers be brought down as a matter of form, but that the opinions of the hon. members should be obtained on the subject. It is true, as has been represented by the hon. member for North Huron, that a discrimination is made against the United Kingdom. When we are endeavoring to induce immigration from foreign countries, particularly from Germany, whose delegates we have invited to visit the Dominion, it is desirable that every facility should be given to strangers visiting our country, with a view to settling here, to assist their relatives in joining them by sending small sums of money to the Old Country; and it is rather unfair that they should be charged a heavier rate for obtaining such an exchange than if they were dealing with the people of the United States. The complaint made by