

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I hope we will get rid of them all soon.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will say if he has any more before him that will come in the Further Supplementary Estimates.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I hope not. They are very tiring.

Mr. BLAKE. I think so. Does he propose to charge this to the Dominion or to the old Province of Canada?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am afraid it is too small to have an arbitration of the old Province on it.

Mr. BLAKE. I think perhaps he would be more careful about paying these claims if they were charged to the right account, because I fancy the Province would be indisposed to recognize such claims as this. I think, if paid at all, it is clear they should not be paid by the Dominion. It is only by virtue of the proposition that they are debts of the old Province that the claims can be made at all. I do not approve of the vote. I think these claims ought to be supported by much stronger evidence, and in any event they should not be charged to the Dominion.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. In any case, I think the representatives of the old Province ought to be consulted about these matters. If it is a debt at all, of which I have the gravest possible doubt, I confess, after the explanation, it is, as my hon. friend has said, a debt due by the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and it is the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec which ought to decide whether it is a just claim, not the hon. gentleman. He has no right to saddle the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec with this claim that I can see.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am afraid, under the Union Act, we are responsible for the engagements of the old Province in regard to everything that comes under the purview of this Parliament.

Mr. BLAKE. No doubt; the Act of Union makes the Dominion responsible for the debts of the old Province, but on condition that they are charged to the old Province.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If a claim is made, if it is felt that it is a legitimate claim against the old Province, we are responsible and obliged to pay it, although we have a right to look to the old Province for it.

Mr. BLAKE. We pay it only by virtue of a special statutory obligation, part of which is that you shall not charge it against the rest of the Dominion. It is because it is a debt of old Canada that it comes to us at all, and in view of the division of old Canada into Ontario and Quebec, for book-keeping convenience Canada was called upon to bear the payment in the first instance. But she does not bear the debts of the other provinces.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. The consolidated debts, but not such debts as this.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes; in regard to works which came over and became our property.

Mr. BLAKE. On another principle; that would be the obligations incurred in respect of the work. This is not the case of a doctor charging nothing for his services, but of a lawyer, who for fourteen years, forgot to ask for his bill. I never heard of such a case before.

Rideau.

243. To pay land damages between Lower
Brewers and Kingston Mills \$326 00

M. BLAKE.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Claims have been preferred for compensation by several individuals on account of damages to their properties by high waters. The superintendent and engineers have reported on these claims and have submitted a valuation. The Chief Engineer has expressed the opinion that the amounts are reasonable and should be paid in full of all demands, past and present, provided the respective claimants can show satisfactory title to the land.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is rather odd. I know something of the land in that vicinity, and I should say it has been forty or fifty years since the dams and other works in that neighbourhood were constructed, by which any land could be flooded. It is difficult to see how new damage could be done now.

Mr. BLAKE. It is not the damage that is new; it is the claim that is new.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. These are quite recent.

PUBLIC WORKS—CHARGEABLE TO CAPITAL.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Ottawa.

243. Additional compensation to Mr. Calvert Vaux, for the plans submitted by him for the embellishment and arrangement of the Parliament Grounds, Ottawa (revote of lapsed amount) \$500 00

PUBLIC WORKS—CHARGEABLE TO INCOME.

Quebec.

2 4 { Montreal Drill Shed 16,000 00
St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary 2,900 00
Quebec Fortifications—To pay H. J. Beemer, in full and final settlement of all claims in connection with his contracts for Kent and St. Louis Gates.... 5,000 00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. We are asking \$5,000 to pay H. J. Beemer in full and final settlement for all claims in connection with his contracts for Kent and St. Louis Gates, which claims amounted to \$21,300. After a careful examination of the matter, it was decided, on the recommendation of the chief architect, to allow him the sum of \$5,000. Mr. Beemer was pressing his claim, and wanted it to be referred to the arbitrators, but I told him I would not consent, that I thought his case should be decided by the chief architect, like other claims of that kind. I desired to avoid the cost of arbitration. Mr. Fuller, the chief architect, looked into the matter, and reported that the claim of \$21,300 should be met by an award of \$5,000 in full of all demands.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think the hon. gentleman's attention was directed to the fact that Her Majesty specially contributed £500; and it was suggested that, as was proper, that sum should be specially expended in some way to commemorate the Duke of Kent.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The amount was paid over to the Receiver-General, and placed at the disposal of my Department, and when we built the gate opposite St. Anne's street, it was named the Kent Gate, in honour of the Queen's father. The amount of money that was contributed by Her Majesty was expended on that gate. The plans were prepared and revised by the Princess Louise when she was here, and changed to suit her taste. Special lamps were imported, at her request, and we have put a tablet in the gate, upon which an inscription will be made during the coming summer.