

The question of "Trade between the Dominion and the West Indies," was then called.

The PRESIDENT—If there is no gentleman who has come specially to discuss this subject, or any other one I may read, they can be passed.

Mr. THOS. WHITE, Jr.—With the understanding that they may be gone back to?

The PRESIDENT.—Certainly.

This question, and "The Manufacturing, Mining, and Commercial Interests of the Maritime Provinces," were passed over for the time.

#### THE BAIE VERTE CANAL.

The Baie Verte Canal was the next question open for discussion.

Mr. C. H. FAIRWEATHER, (St. John, N.B.)—I beg to move, seconded by Hon. T. R. JONES, this resolution—

"That this Board reaffirms its previously expressed opinion in reference to the great importance of the Baie Verte Canal, and is of opinion that it should be proceeded with without delay."

The question having been so fully discussed at previous meetings, and further, in view of the fact that I have not been able to give sufficient attention to the matter to enable me to express myself properly upon the question, I shall say but a very few words respecting it. You have just remarked, Sir, that in the articles of Confederation,—or rather in the understanding which was arrived at among the parties who promoted Confederation,—the finishing of the enlargement of the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals was a part of that understanding. I am of opinion that the shape which matters have subsequently taken may enable you,—at all events may enable this Board, to estimate the Baie Verte Canal to stand precisely in the same list, and in the same relation. The Canal Commission which was appointed, and upon which the present action of the Government of Canada is based, as I understand it, adopted, after mature consideration, the Baie Verte Canal project as a part of the Canal scheme of the Dominion,—as the complement of the other canals,—as rendering the work perfect and complete; and that having been so, I feel that this Board is justified in giving a strong expression of opinion on this subject—an expression of opinion which would not be necessary were it not that we see delays in making a commencement. It is true the appropriation has been made of half a million of dollars to begin the work; but no commencement has been made,—and why it has not been made we are not informed. There can be no reason apparent to us,—to those who are friends of the measure,—why it should not be set in motion. There may be reasons, and there may be good reasons. I will not impugn the motives of any man in speaking of the subject; but we desire here that steps should be taken at once to commence the work, in order that by

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