

April 27, 1874

the amount expended on capital account, as he would then get a clearer idea as to the amount expended on these works.

**Mr. WHITE (Renfrew North)** agreed to the suggestion, and the motion was carried.

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#### PORTAGE ISLAND

**Hon. Mr. MITCHELL** moved for the correspondence between the Government of Canada and the British Government in reference to the transfer of Portage Island to the Government of Canada. He explained that the object of the motion was that the interests of the French inhabitants of the Island should be protected.

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#### SECTION 12, INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

**Mr. McDONNELL** moved for correspondence, et cetera, respecting Section 12 of the Intercolonial Railway. His object in asking for these papers was to have them laid before the Committee on Public Accounts.

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#### ST. JOHN BALLAST WHARF

**Mr. PALMER** moved for a statement of the amount expended on the extension of the railway between Shediac and St. John to the ballast wharf at St. John.

**Mr. PICKARD** hoped that if a bridge were built, it would be over the falls.

The motion carried.

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#### NORTHWEST COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

**Mr. SCHULTZ** moved for copies of Acts passed and appointments made by the Council of the Northwest Territories.—Carried.

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#### INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

**Mr. TASCHEREAU** moved for a return of claims filed against the contractors for sections 8, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19.

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#### PORT STANLEY HARBOUR

On motion of **Mr. CASEY**, Mr. Walker was added to the Select Committee on Port Stanley harbour.

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#### TAXATION AND REVENUE

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** moved “that this House, having been asked to increase the taxation of the people to the extent of three million dollars per annum, is entitled to the fullest information in reference

to the financial position of the country, and that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying him to cause copies of the returns of the receipts of revenue to the twentieth day of April instant, to be laid before the House”.

He said he must ask the indulgence of the House while he laid before it the grounds for the motion which he had felt it his duty to make to the House. It would be recollected that he asked for the House what he believed he was safe in saying no other Government before ever refused to the humblest member of Parliament on similar occasions, that they should lay before the House the latest information in their power in relation to the financial affairs of the country.

The occasion on which that request was made was one of very great moment to the country. The Finance Minister (Hon. Mr. Cartwright) had submitted to the House an exposition of the financial affairs of the country, in which he claimed that the commercial outlook of the country was so gloomy, that the failure of the revenue to meet the expenditure of the country was so marked, that he was compelled to apply to Parliament for power to levy additional taxation on the people of the Dominion to the extent of \$3,000,000 per annum.

He (Hon. Mr. Tupper) listened with great attention to the statement made by the hon. gentleman, and he felt satisfied, not only from his own knowledge of the position of the country, but from the figures the hon. gentleman had himself submitted to the House, that he was entirely mistaken as to the financial position of the country. He wished to state that issue clearly and distinctly, and the points on which the Hon. Minister of Finance and himself differed, viz.:—First, the grounds on which he had arrived at the opinion that the Finance Minister was mistaken as regarded the commercial position of the country. Secondly, in reference to there being a deficit, as stated in the speech with which Parliament was opened; and thirdly, as to the existence of any necessity for additional taxation to the extent of \$3,000,000 per annum.

The official statement laid upon the table by the Government entirely contradicted the grounds the hon. gentleman had taken in reference to the commercial prospects of the country. He found, by reference to these public documents, that there had been a steady increase in the business of the country and in the exports, imports, and revenue from the navigation of the Dominion down to the present time; that at no period in the history of the Dominion had the outlook been better than at present.

From the trade and navigation returns it appeared that the increase on the export of 1873 over 1872 and the products of the fisheries was \$438,769, and the increased products of forests for the same period was \$4,901,434, and in the products of animals there had been an increase over the previous year of no less than \$1,826,414, and on agricultural products there had been an increase of \$1,616,784. On the mineral products of the country there had been an increase of \$2,534,554. On manufactures there was exhibited an increase of \$532,367. These exports indicate with unerring certainty the real condition of the country. Then, touching the imports, these have increased in the year 1873 over the year