

On item 172, for standards of weights and measures ordered in England, but not yet delivered, \$25,000, in answer to Hon. Mr. MITCHELL,

Hon. Mr. GEOFFRION said the \$70,000 voted last year was found not to be enough to buy all the required standards, and therefore this additional vote was called for.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked whether the Government intended to put the Act respecting weights and measures in force at once, and whether they would extend the Act to all the cities and towns of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. GEOFFRION said the Act provided that it should come into force six months after a notice to that effect appeared in the *Official Gazette*. The notice had been delayed till the standards had arrived from England. It has now been published, and the Act would come into force on the 1st of July.

Mr. JONES (Halifax) said he had hoped that the Government would not put this Act into force at all, as he considered it a step in the wrong direction. It would be much better to assimilate our weights and measures to those of the rest of the continent, as we had done our currency and our railway gauges. The Imperial standard, which was to be introduced by this Act, would cause a great deal of inconvenience throughout the country, and if it was made compulsory it would be very unpopular.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER said the late Government had introduced this measure under an imperative sense of their duty to the country, and he believed that although it might be attended with temporary inconvenience it would prove to be a substantial reform. He hoped the Government would take steps to make public the general terms of the law before it went into force, so that the people would become familiar with it.

Hon. Mr. GEOFFRION said that would be done.

Item passed, also item 173, salaries of Inspectors of Weights and Measures, \$60,000.

On item 174, for the purchase and distribution of standards of flour, &c., \$3,000 in answer to Hon. Mr. MITCHELL,

Hon. Mr. GEOFFRION said this vote was required to provide Inspectors of

flour, fish, &c., with the necessary standards.—Item passed.

On item 175 to meet expenses under the Act 36 Vic., Chap. 49.,

Hon. Mr. TUPPER asked what steps it was proposed to take under this Act.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said the present idea was to appoint medical officers familiar with chemistry in the large cities of the Dominion, whose duty would be to examine samples of different articles of food, and if they found any adulteration the parties guilty would be prosecuted.—Item passed.

Items 176, salaries and contingencies of canal officers; 177, collection of slide and boom dues; 178, repairs and working expenses of ditto, were passed without discussion.

On item 179, \$2,055,000 Intercolonial and other Government Railways in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick,

Mr. DOMVILLE inquired whether that amount of money was to be applied to what we understood as the Intercolonial Railway proper, or whether all the Government railways in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were included. There did not seem to be any well marked distinction between the railways in this respect. He would have referred to this subject before now, but as it had been relegated to a sub-Committee, and as Mr. BRYDGES and others would be called before that Committee, he had refrained from doing so. We could not, however, allow this amount to pass *en bloc* without asking whether the Government had placed it to the account of construction or maintenance.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said the hon. gentleman would see the details at page 69. He added that the term "Intercolonial Railway" included all the Government railways in the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. YOUNG called attention to the fact that there was \$447,000 of a reduction in the expenditure in this one single branch of the public service, and the mere statement reflected, he thought considerably, upon the character of the management of the late Government. He did not intend to make any remarks upon this point, seeing that the whole subject had been referred to a committee, but would simply say that it was a very good proof of the energy and economy which the

Hon. Mr. Mitchell.