

with that distant Province. However, as we were likely soon to have telegraphic communication with British Columbia, through our own territory, the necessity for an Indian Board had, in a great measure, ceased, and as it had not been very successful, the Government had under consideration the expediency of abolishing it and appointing superintendents instead.

Mr. BUNSTER expressed astonishment at the remarks of the hon., the Minister, and insisted that the Government of the Dominion had been altogether to blame for the injustice done to the Indians, inasmuch as they had never taken possession of the land which the Government of Columbia was keeping in trust for them. The Commissioners, he repeated, did not understand the Indians, who were the best class of the aborigines in this country. He did not appear as the advocate of the Local Government, for he had been an opponent of theirs, but he would not see any injustice done them, and he thought it most unjust to blame them for not giving away lands which were not theirs to give. He hoped the Dominion Government would take possession of these lands, and distribute them, and he also hoped that they would otherwise fulfil the terms of the Union which gave them the right to the possession of the land. The hon. gentleman, he thought, was in error in accusing the Local Government in breaking faith with the Indians.

Mr. DECOSMOS said he could not coincide with the hon. gentleman, who had just spoken in the sweeping charge of incompetency made against the Agent. So far as Dr. BOWELL was concerned he (Mr. DECOSMOS) had no fault to find. The principle objection he had to the others was, that there were men in the Province who were just as well fitted for the duties as they, but under the proposed new arrangement he thought they might probably do their work more satisfactorily.

The item was then carried.

On item 160, \$2,000, probable expenses with Indians in Prince Edward Island,

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said he would expect the hon. gentleman to furnish the House with some details as to the relative number of Indians in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. His own impression was that in Prince

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Edward Island and Nova Scotia the grant given was too large in proportion to the number of the Indians, as compared to the grants given in New Brunswick. He would, also, ask the hon. gentleman to say whether the sum derived from timber lands in New Brunswick was expended on behalf of the Indians of that Province. The item was carried.

Item 161 was passed without discussion.

On item 162, to provide for surveys of boundary between British Columbia and the United States, \$100,000,

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said this was a new vote, the object of which was to provide for the survey of the boundary between Alaska and Canada. The government hoped it would not be necessary to expend the whole of it, but it was well to have sufficient on hand if it should be required.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN MACDONALD asked if any negotiations were going on with respect to this boundary.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT replied that communications were now going on through Sir EDWARD THORNTON with the United States government, and it was hoped that some settlement would be arrived at which would enable this government to dispense with the expenditure of the large amount asked for. The Alaska coast was very intricate, and there was no doubt the running of a line on the ridges of the mountains would be very expensive. It was with a view to effect a saving in this respect that these negotiations were now going on.—The item passed.

Items 163 to 166, inclusive, were passed without discussion.

On item \$12,000 commutation liens of remission of duties on articles imported for the use of the army and navy.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN MACDONALD asked why there was an increase of \$2,000.

Hon. Mr. BURPEE said the amount hitherto allowed was \$50, which was not sufficient. Representations were made by the officers at Halifax to that effect, and this increase was allowed.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—In point of fact this \$2,000 increase is in consequence of the recent increase in the duties.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT—Partly that and partly in consequence of the increased cost of living in the last few years.