

Minister of Finance had given the excess, in this relation, over ordinary receipts as being only \$200,000; but they were led to believe that the amount was certainly \$700,000 extra, while, perhaps, one or one and a-quarter millions had been received in consequence of the occurrence of this fire. Of course, this would naturally increase the burdens of the people there, who felt that if they had to pay so large an amount into the Treasury, they should obtain something in compensation therefor. In the Estimates, \$200,000 were put down to rebuild the public buildings destroyed at St. John by the fire; but it was only natural to suppose that, even if those had been private buildings, they would have been replaced, as nearly two-thirds of the city had been rebuilt, while up to the meeting of Parliament, not a blow had been struck on the public buildings in question. It would seem that, with such a large amount collected and on hand, some steps should be taken to encourage the people to build. Those buildings should, ere this, have been begun and something should have been done. They were told that work on these buildings had been kept back for election purposes; but he, of course, did not believe this story. He wished to give the Government fair play, and he thought that the minds of the people should be disabused on this point by not having these buildings started on the eve of the election. What he found fault with was the fact, that so much stress should have been laid on the vote of \$200,000 for the erection of public buildings in the city of St. John when a very large amount had been received in this relation in the Treasury.

MR. BURPEE (St. John) said it had occurred to him that a misapprehension existed as to the amount collected at St. John in consequence of the fire. The amount mentioned by the hon. the Finance Minister in his speech was, up to the present time, a little over \$200,000 in addition to the natural increase which had taken place there as in other parts of the Dominion. The papers asked would, of course, show the exact amount, but he made this

explanation with the view of pointing out that the large amount spoken of was far in excess of the actual sum.

MR. DOMVILLE: I should like to ask the hon. the Minister of Customs if he can state the amount of increase up to the present time over that of last year?

MR. BURPEE: About \$240,000 up to the present time. The natural increase in other places has been from 8 to 10 per cent., and, no doubt, there has been an increase of a similar character in St. John.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said he wished to make a remark or two, because it seemed to him that some considerable misapprehension prevailed as to the total amount of goods imported into the Province of New Brunswick. The total amount for the year 1876-7 was very little more than \$5,000,000, and the duty on that was just \$1,000,000; this amount was not likely to be exceeded. He could not tell what the imports would amount to during the next four or five months, nor had he the means of ascertaining exactly how many months' consumption in advance might have been stored in St. John in the month of June. Speaking generally, however, he thought about \$200,000 of duty on goods would be the average amount gained. That, of course, was matter of conjecture, but the exact information would be brought forward in answer to the motion of the hon. member for King's.

MR. MACKENZIE said he was sorry the hon. member for King's should have indulged in the insinuation, which he very plainly made use of, that the Government had delayed commencing the buildings at St. John for political purposes. He could not conceive how it would benefit the Government in any way to delay the erection of the buildings, which were required in the public interest. It seemed to him that such a proceeding would have a decidedly opposite effect. He could assure the hon. member that no time was lost in ascertaining how much of the ruins could be utilized in the erection of the new buildings, and two firms of architects in the city of St.