

ESQUIMALT AND NANAIMO RAILWAY SURVEYS.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

MR. DECOSMOS moved for an Order of the House for a return containing a copy of all reports of surveys for a railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo, with maps of the surveys and estimates of the cost of the railway, if any.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: My hon. predecessor will remember whether a report or estimate was made of that survey. My own impression is that it was ordered, and was in course of execution, when, owing to the action of Parliament, the work was interrupted.

MR. MACKENZIE: I think there was not a full estimate, but a rough estimate, which showed the work to be a very expensive one.

Motion agreed to.

PACIFIC RAILWAY LOCATION.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

MR. DECOSMOS moved for an Order of the House for a return containing a copy of a memorandum of location of Canada Pacific Railway, 1879, by Mr. Marcus Smith; also, copies of the map of Canada Pacific Railway, 1878, accompanying report of Mr. Marcus Smith, acting Chief Engineer.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I shall be obliged to ask my hon. friend to leave out that portion of this motion which asks for copies of the map of the Canada Pacific Railway of 1878, accompanying the report of Mr. Marcus Smith. The Department took exception to a portion of that map, and did not feel justified in publishing it as a Government map. That was the action taken by the late Government, and by my hon. predecessor, and I believe it was taken on the ground that portions of the line of the Canada Pacific Railway, and a section of country covered by that map were exhibited as being of a very barren and sterile character, when so strong a statement was not warranted by the information in the possession of the Department. Other sections were represented as being of a very fertile and excellent character, which had not, in the judgment of my hon. predecessor, been sufficiently explored to warrant their being described in such terms. I may say that explorations carried on during the past season

have satisfied me that Mr. Marcus Smith was not correct in describing large sections of that country as being of a very inferior description, and the effect of the publication of this map would be to commit the Government to definite and explicit statements that I do not think the facts will exactly warrant. I have no doubt the map was prepared with a conscientious regard to what the gentlemen preparing it believed to be true. I do not feel sure, that I would be acting properly if I were to publish the map, as it would be published if it were to be brought down to the House. So far as the report is concerned, I think it was published *in extenso* by the former Minister of Public Works, and then the only objection was that the map which had been prepared to accompany it did not accompany it. I hope the hon. gentleman will not press the motion.

MR. ANGLIN: Do I understand the hon. the Minister of Railways to deliberately withdraw all he himself said at one time with regard to the conduct of the hon. the Minister of Public Works in this matter? Does the hon. member withdraw what, if I remember aright, he designated as the suppressing of a valuable map?

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I can only say that I think the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Anglin) will find that he is entirely in error. I do not think he will find that I made myself responsible for an attack on the hon. member for suppressing valuable information. I certainly did not do so, if in possession of the information I now communicate to the House. I should be much obliged to the hon. member for Gloucester if he would show me the statement he refers to.

MR. MACKENZIE: I am quite sure, if the hon. gentleman himself did not make the statement, some of his friends did, and I am quite sure that newspapers all over the country did. I was represented as doing something very bad indeed by suppressing a map that would have given accurate information concerning the country. I know a very great injustice was done.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I do not think the hon. gentleman will say I was a party to that injustice.

MR. MACKENZIE: If the hon. gentleman says he was not I accept his state-

MR. DECOSMOS.