

February 23, 1871

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS replied that the Government had taken the only steps it was possible for them to take with regard to the withdrawal of these twenty cent pieces from circulation. He might observe that when it became necessary to get an additional supply of small silver coin, this subject engaged the attention of the Government, and they were of opinion that the twenty-five cent coin was the best to circulate, and they were fully sensible of the disadvantage of having two coins in circulation so similar in appearance and so nearly alike in value. It was deemed advisable, however, to go on with the issue of the twenty-five cent coins, because there happened to be but a small amount of twenty cent coins in circulation. The banks were instructed to accept them and never to reissue them, and, therefore, it depended on the public to have them withdrawn. He was very glad to have this opportunity to state that the Government was as desirous as it could possibly be to co-operate in every way with the banks in withdrawing these twenty cent coins from circulation.

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THE FISHERIES

In reply to a question from **Hon. Sir A.T. GALT**, respecting his motion on the paper, for correspondence between the Dominion and the Imperial Governments since the 1st of February, 1870, on the fisheries and the proposed International Commission.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said that there was little to relate on these subjects at present. The correspondence brought down showed that a Commission was asked for for a specified purpose, by the Canadian Government, in regard to the Fisheries. The Imperial Government promised to communicate with the United States Government on the subject, and did so, with the result all were aware of. The changes subsequently adopted at the instance of both Governments were already known. Nothing beyond the letters between the ministers of London and Washington could be produced at present.

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT complained they had not got any correspondence since Earl Kimberley's report, and little after the date of 1866. However, the matter was coming up tomorrow.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: Yes.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER said the correspondence was contained in the supplementary return brought down.

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT said that in that case he would allow his motion to drop.

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THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

Mr. JONES (Leeds North and Grenville North) moved for a return of the names of persons who have tendered for contracts on the Intercolonial Railway since the 19th of May, 1869. He said his object was to gratify the public expectation. The general impression throughout the country was that there was a great, reckless

expenditure connected with this undertaking, that incompetency as well as extravagance were the order of the day. The expenditure in connection with this railway was enormous, a few years ago, but in 1870 it exceeded all preceding years being for engineers, and so forth \$306,681. He moved for details as to the letting of all the contracts since the 19th May, 1869, the salaries of employees on the road, and other information in regard to it, including the rates per mile of the different contracts.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said a large portion of the information asked for was already before the House. The rest would be brought down.

The motion carried.

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PROVINCIAL ARBITRATION

Mr. BLAKE moved for correspondence between the Canadian and Quebec and Ontario Governments, touching the Provincial arbitration and award.

Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU hoped the hon. gentleman would amend his motion so as to make it include a copy of the joint address of both Houses of the Local Legislature of Quebec to the Governor General on this subject. The address was a very strong protest against the award being considered as anything but one illegal and unjust.

Mr. GODIN moved in amendment to strike out all the words after the word "award" in the main motion, so as to imply a disavowal of confidence in the decision.

Mr. FOURNIER moved, in amendment to the amendment, seconded by **Mr. POZER**, That the words "and that the following words be substituted instead thereof; and representing to His Excellency, that in the opinion of this House the question relative to the division of the debt between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec having been submitted to and adjudicated upon by two arbitrators only, one appointed by the Dominion Government and the other by the Government of Ontario, in the absence of the Arbitrator appointed by the Government of Quebec, the award is not binding on the respective Provinces" be added at the end thereof.

He said that he desired on that occasion to register his protest against this award. The Province of Quebec was unanimously against this award. All lawyers knew that when arbitrators were appointed the presence of all at the hearing of the case was essential to any valid award. He went further believing, with the Quebec Premier, that the award, too, should be unanimous. It was for Ontario to adopt any possible violation of the present difficulty. (*Hear, hear.*)

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he could not take any action in the matter at present, of the kind asked by the amendments, or any affirming the validity or invalidity of the award. But the Government had no objection to bring down all the