

April 19, 1872

\$36,400, the excess being nowhere accounted for. He thought this should be explained.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said the question was one which it would have been better to have asked of the Committee on Public Accounts, as he could scarcely explain every item in the Public Accounts, but his impression was that there would prove to have been no excess over the total appropriation, and that there had been a larger expenditure in this particular year than in the others.

Mr. THOMPSON (Cariboo) was sorry that there should be so much debate about so paltry an amount as \$45,000, and would have rather wished that that sum should have been doubled, trebled, or quadrupled, and then something could have been accomplished.

It was very important that emigrants should have full information as to the resources of each portion of the Dominion, and if the matter were left to the different Provinces they might be tempted to give spurious information to attract emigration to their own lands; but the fact of the Dominion having obtained the information would be a sufficient guarantee of its correctness. He repeated that he was only sorry the amount was so small. (*Cheers.*)

Hon. Mr. WOOD thought the House had a perfect right to make an appropriation and that it could be done without clashing with the proceedings of the Provinces. He took no exception to the increase, but he did to the mode in which it was proposed to be done, as he thought there ought to be an annual vote. The principle was wrong, and full statements and information ought to be given each year and a vote obtained annually. There was no reason that this should be an exception to the general rule.

Mr. MILLS said he would withdraw his amendment after the remarks of the Minister of Justice (*Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald*).

The Committee then rose and reported the resolution adopted.

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LARCENY OF STAMPS

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced a Bill to render the larceny of Stamps criminal.

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PUBLIC OFFICERS BONDS

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced a Bill to provide a uniform Bond for all Officers of the Public Service required to give security.

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BANKS AND BANKING

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS moved the House in Committee

to consider certain resolutions respecting Banks and Banking.

Mr. STREET in the Chair.

The House being in Committee, **Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** moved: —

That it is expedient to amend Section 16 of the Government Savings Bank Act 34 Vic., Cap. 6, by providing that the surplus of the Assets of the St. John Savings Bank over its liabilities on the 1st July, 1867, which has been ascertained to be \$89,560.44 shall be left in the hands of the Trustees of that Institution to be by them appropriated to some local purpose of public interest, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, and by providing that the surplus of the assets of the Northumberland and Durham Savings Bank over its liabilities on the 10th April, 1872, shall be left in the hands of the Trustees of that Institution, to be by them appropriated to some local purpose or purposes of public interest, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said the object of the first resolution was to amend the Act of last session respecting the Savings Bank. That Act had been framed with reference to certain Savings Banks in Ontario and Quebec. At the time he had been under the impression that the Banks of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were Government Savings Banks, and it was only after the passage of the Act that it became known that the Bank at St. John was not such, and had always been managed by Trustees. Those Trustees felt that they should be treated in the same way as other Banks, and the Government proposed to take over the Bank, leaving the Trustees to deal with their surplus in the same way as the Trustees of other Banks. This was the result of an arrangement with them with which they were satisfied. He then explained the position of the Northumberland and Durham Bank.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said he knew nothing of the first case, nor did he intend to oppose the resolution as to the second, but the Committee ought to understand that it was a divergence from the purposes for which the surplus was dedicated by the Act under which the bank was incorporated. That Act prescribed and limited the mode of applying the surplus. For many years the bank had carried on a successful business, and had a very large account in hand which was now to be disposed of in some undefined way. The hon. gentleman might say that his proposal was the only course that could be adopted, but he merely wished to call the attention of the Committee to the fact without expressing any hostility.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said what the hon. gentleman had said was quite correct, but the Act had been intended to apply to large cities where there were many charitable institutions to which the surplus could be applied, but he believed that in the case of the Northumberland and Durham Bank there were no such institutions, and the act could not be carried out. Consequently the sum of \$87,669 had accumulated, and the trustees were anxious that it