

offered by any member of the Government, or any member of the House.

Mr. BURPEE (St. John) said the first part of the return could be supplied to the hon. member quite readily, but he feared the last part could not. There had been no account kept between the different Provinces since Confederation, and there was nothing to show the trade between them.

Mr. DECOSMOS said he thought the hon. the Minister of Customs would be able to get the necessary information, from the fact that all merchandize was passed in bond over the Pacific Railway; therefore, the ports through which merchandize was passed to British Columbia would be able to supply the information. He hoped the Government would allow the motion to pass, because he thought it was a matter of great importance.

Mr. MACKENZIE: We will try.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 19th Feb., 1878.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MONEY PAID TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

Mr. DECOSMOS moved for a return showing the respective sums of money paid to the Government of British Columbia, and at what time paid, in accordance with section 2, chap. 17, Vic. 37, of the Statutes of Canada. In doing so, he said he wished to bring before the House the fact that, by the non-performance of their agreement on the part of the Government of the Dominion, there had been entailed upon the Province of British Columbia a loss of some \$272,500. In order that the House might follow him in bringing to their notice this equit-

able claim, he took occasion to state that in 1873 he was the Premier of the Province of British Columbia. He found that the Province was not in a condition to invite immigrants to come and settle in the country. The ordinary and current revenue of the Province was only sufficient to meet the ordinary and current expenditure. In order, therefore, to prepare that country, in the interests of the Dominion, to receive population from abroad, and thereby contribute to the revenues and the building up of the country, it was decided that he should go to the Government of the Dominion, and, if necessary, to the Imperial Government and the capitalists of Great Britain, to raise a loan of some million of dollars to make surveys, and open up colonization roads through the accessible portion of that Province. In the autumn of 1873 he arrived in this Province, some three or four weeks before Parliament met in extra Session. He placed himself in communication with the Government of that day. He told that Government that the Provincial Government wanted a million of dollars or less,—may be \$500,000 or \$600,000. The Minister of Finance of that day was absent in England, placing the bonds of the Dominion upon the London market. He opened negotiations through the hon. the then Minister of Public Works (Mr. Langevin) with respect to this loan. When the Minister of Finance returned from England,—as the loan could not be concluded with the Dominion Government until he had returned,—it was arranged that the Province of British Columbia should draw on application the sum between the allowed debt and the actual debt of the Province at the date of Union, as increased by the Act increasing the debts of the respective Provinces in 1873. In order that the House might follow him in this matter, he would read the Order in Council that was passed by the Dominion Government of that day, respecting the matter:

"In a memorandum, dated 8th Oct., 1873, from the hon. the Minister of Finance, submitting an application from Mr. DeCosmos on behalf of the Government of British Columbia, asking that the Dominion may advance for local improvements a sum equal to the difference between the actual debt of the Province and the debt allowed at the Union, such advance to be at the rate of 5 per cent, to be