

date of employment and date when pay commenced, of the sessional or extra clerks at present employed in the service of the House; also, a statement by the Sergeant-at-Arms shewing the ages, names, salaries or daily pay and length of service of messengers and others in his Department, whether employed permanently or otherwise.

Motion agreed to.

WELLAND CANAL IMPROVEMENTS.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

MR. JONES (South Leeds) moved for a Return of all railway plant, machinery, tools, implements and merchandise imported in bond for use by contractors, or others, on the Welland Canal improvements at the ports of Port Colborne, Clifton, and St. Catharines, from 1st July, 1874, to 1st January, 1878. He said he had good authority for stating that a large quantity of material, labouring plant, and a large number of steam excavators, steam pumps, horses, carts and implements of all descriptions had been brought in on the Niagara frontier for the use of contractors on the Welland Canal, on which very little duty, if any, was paid, owing to their being brought in, in hand, or allowed to come in on sufferance, owing to the laxity of the Customs officials on that frontier. The contractors on this work were principally Americans, and they liked to use their own plant, machinery and tools. The distance to the frontier was only some 10 or 12 miles; the cars were constantly passing to and fro; and they very easily got in this plant, on which very little duty, if any, was paid. This entailed very great loss, if it were true, not only on the customs revenue, but also on the manufacturers and people of this country. He knew very well that when Canadians were fortunate enough to secure contracts in the United States, they had to pay duty to the last farthing on their labouring plant horses, carts and steam pumps, etc., which they took over; and he considered that when American contractors secured any work in this country, they should be treated in the same manner. He made this motion in order to direct

the attention of the Customs Department to this matter. This system prevailed not only in this portion but also in other portions of the frontier of the Dominion.

MR. BURPEE (St. John), said that, so far as he was aware, the hon. gentleman was misinformed. The system which the hon. gentleman mentioned had not been allowed to exist during the last two or three years, during which period they had collected, if he was correctly informed, duty on all this material that was brought into this country. They had collected something like \$18,000 in duty on plant and material that came in at these points. He might say that two or three years ago, the system referred to was permitted, and contractors were allowed to bring in their plant and horses, carts and tools of various kinds in bond, and to use them until exported when the law was cancelled. Of course, there was a large amount of this material not yet exported which was imported during 1872 and 1873, but which was said to be exported; and they were trying to find out the exact facts of the case. During the past three years this practice had been entirely stopped, and so far as they knew, there was no material now coming in, no matter whether for a week or a day, on which duty was not paid; and this rule had been enforced not only at Clifton and Port Colborne, but also at every other point in the Dominion. The duty on all goods brought in by contractors was collected to the utmost extent, and a valuation was taken. The returns would show the exact state of affairs.

MR. NORRIS said he thought that the return should go back to, and include 1870, in order to enable a fair comparison to be made.

MR. JONES: I merely wish to draw the attention of the Department to this matter.

MR. BURPEE: Will the hon. gentleman allow the motion to be amended to go back to 1870?

MR. JONES: Certainly.

MR. CURRIER said he would like to know whether a valuation was put