

Mr. BELL—When the boys are discharged, are they sent home at the expense of the Province?

Mr. PARDEE replied in the affirmative, and, referring to the resolutions, said that he did not think it would be necessary to make further explanations.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe)—What is the full amount?

Mr. PARDEE was about giving the full amount when his hon. friend interrupted. The whole amount would be \$122,500, made up thus:—Hamilton and North-western, \$20,000; Port Stanley, Strathroy, and Port Franks, \$20,000; and the North Simcoe Railway, \$82,000. The vote would be divided over a period of twenty years, thus:—Hamilton and North-western, \$173 04 per mile per annum; Port Stanley, Strathroy, and Port Franks, \$173 04; North Simcoe Railway, \$216 30: or a total of \$10,598 70 per annum. He then concluded by moving that the Speaker do now leave the chair. (Cheers.)

The House then went into Committee on the resolutions, but several Opposition members objecting to going on with the consideration of them, the Committee, on motion of Mr. Pardee, rose without reporting.

TILE DRAINAGE.

Mr. GRAHAM asked leave to withdraw the following motion, of which he had given notice:—"Order of the House for copies of all correspondence relating to tile or under drainage between the Government and the Dominion, or any other Grange, or any person in the Province of Ontario."

The order was discharged.

DOMINION STOCK.

Mr. WILLS moved for a return of all communications, correspondence, and negotiations connected with the hypothecation of certain Dominion stock to the extent of £149,000 sterling, during the year 1877, stating the amount received on such hypothecation; the rate of interest; the amount of commission for negotiating the loan; the specific time (if any) for which the loan was made; the market value of said stock at the time of hypothecation; the market value of the said stock at the first accrual of interest thereon after such loan, and the present market value of said stock. He feared that if a war took place the Province would be a loser by the transaction referred to in the motion.

Mr. WOOD expressed his willingness that the return should be brought down.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) thought there was no need of the Government entering into any transaction involving a risk.

The motion was carried.

BANK DEPOSITS.

Mr. BELL moved for an Order of the House for a statement showing the amount of Provincial money in deposit in any of the banks; the name of such bank or banks, the respective amounts so deposited, the amount drawing interest, and at what rate; also, the amount and rate of interest received on deposit by the Province in each year, from the year 1871 to 1877, both inclusive.

Mr. WOOD said he had no objection to the motion, but he proposed that the return should be from the year 1867.

The motion was carried.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Mr. DAWSON moved for an Order of the House for a return showing the sources of information on which the statements of population, births, marriages, and deaths in Algoma, as exhibited in the report of the Registrar-General for the year ending the 31st December, 1876, have been made up. He said a very inaccurate statement had been put forth in regard to the population of Algoma. It had been arrived at by adding fifteen per cent. to the census of 1871, and although this system perhaps gave something like the natural increase in an old and long settled district, where there was no great movement among the people, it was manifestly inapplicable in a new country which was fast filling up with new settlers. As a matter of fact, instead of having increased only to the extent of fifteen per

cent., the population of Algoma had more than doubled in the six years for which the estimate in the report was given, and in some sections there was now a considerable population where there had been no settlement whatever in 1871. It would be just as reasonable to apply the same principle to Manitoba, where the total population in 1871 was 10,000. Fifteen per cent. added would make it 11,500 for 1876, whereas it was at that time nearer 30,000. Tables of statistics were worse than useless unless they were at least approximately accurate. The member for Muskoka claimed that in his district, which was in much the same position as Algoma as regarded the influx of settlers, there was a population of at least twenty thousand, and these returns gave it but as 7,947. They were, however, an active people in Muskoka and Parry Sound as compared to those in Algoma, for the births, marriages, and deaths for that small number were, according to the tables, 640; while in Algoma, with a larger population, the births, marriages and deaths were only 192. As shown in the tables, the births in Muskoka and Parry Sound were 412 to a population of something over 7,000, while in Algoma they were only 109 to a population of over 8,000—so that the people of Muskoka seemed to be much more prolific. At the same time the ratio of marriages was shown to be greater in Algoma. It will thus be seen that the tables in so far as they relate to these districts are purely imaginary. It may be said that no data were available on which correct statistics could be made up. Then why make them up at all? He (Mr. Dawson) could, however, say that there were abundant sources of information for a statement which should at least be approximately correct. In certain sections of Algoma there were municipalities where the assessment rolls could have been referred to. In the Island of Manitoulin, where the population was less than 2,000 in 1871, a published return by the Dominion Government agent showed it to be over 5,000 in 1876. In 1871 there were only 500 settlers at Thunder Bay, men, women, and children all told; in 1876 there were 800 names on the voters' list in the municipality of Shunish alone, which did not include Silver Islet. The population had increased eightfold at that particular place, and yet the compiler of these tables had put it only at 15 per cent. In 1871 three steamers were sufficient for the trade of Algoma. In 1876, by the official returns of the Collector of Customs, the tonnage at the port of Thunder Bay alone was as follows:—171 British vessels, 76,628 tons; 57 United States vessels, 9,542 tons; total, 228 vessels and 86,170 tons. Yet, according to these tables we are required to believe that all this large traffic was occasioned by the presence at Thunder Bay of less than 600 people. The information on which an idea of the population could be formed was just as open to the compiler of the tables as it was to him (Mr. Dawson). It was very unfortunate that such statistics were sent forth at this particular time. He had a short time ago claimed that Algoma was entitled to additional representation, partly on account of the great and rapid increase in the population, but here was an official statement, based on the assumption that there had not gone a single settler to that wide district in the whole period intervening between 1871 and 1876—that, in fact, there had only been a natural increase of fifteen per cent. He was afraid that the people of Algoma might suppose that there was a sinister purpose in putting out statements unjustly depreciating their district. Such statements as these did infinite harm, and the mischief did not end with the present but extended to the future. The historian would refer to them in the time to come, and there would be the same confusion as was now experienced in trying to arrive at what the population of Upper Canada had been in 1791, when it was first formed into a separate Province. The population of Algoma was now greater than the population of Upper Canada had been at that time. He (Mr. Dawson) had made a very careful estimate before bringing forward his resolutions in reference to the re-adjustment of the representation. In Eastern Algoma, including the North