

vestments have been made many years ago and my friend perhaps thought no revenue accrued to the government. There is no money expended properly speaking, because the money was invested many years ago, and now gives a revenue of 3 per cent. I do not think he can complain. If we left the works there the lumbermen might not keep them up and we would lose our money.

Mr. HENDERSON. Would the minister give a statement of the money expended in the St. Maurice district in the construction of slides and booms since confederation? I doubt very much if we are getting 3 per cent on the investment or even one-third of one per cent.

Mr. BRODEUR. These works were begun in 1851, and for keeping in repairs and for construction from 1851 to June 30, 1867, they cost \$269,000, and for staff and repairs from 1855 to 1867, \$118,000.

Mr. HENDERSON. From 1867?

Mr. BRODEUR. The total construction was \$1,430,850.

Mr. HENDERSON. What revenue did you derive from them last year?

Mr. BRODEUR. The gross revenue so far has been \$458,015.50. We received last year 1902-3 \$29,232 and the estimated revenue for the next year will be \$42,000.

Mr. KENNEDY. I think that the hon. member for Halton has been making wild statements. I understood him to say that lumber is worth five times what it was a few years ago.

Mr. HENDERSON. My hon. friend, I think from Cape Breton (Mr. Johnston), was making a wise statement; I did not catch it.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. I would not mind characterizing it as a wild statement.

Mr. HENDERSON. I said a wise statement. What did the hon. gentleman understand me to say, because I think he did not repeat me correctly?

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. My hon. friend beside me (Mr. Kennedy) understood you to say that lumber had increased in value five times in recent years.

Mr. HENDERSON. The hon. gentleman did not quote my words, I made no such statement as that.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. I did not say you did.

Mr. HENDERSON. I said 25 or 30 years ago, and I will undertake to say there is a great deal of lumber worth to-day five times as much.

Mr. KENNEDY. I have been 37 years in business, and the price of lumber has never increased to that extent.

Mr. HENDERSON. The hon. gentleman may be correct, where he lives, I am speak-

ing of Ontario and Quebec. I am satisfied that in the province of Ontario, 25 or 30 years ago, you could buy good lumber for about one-fifth of what you pay for it to-day. Lumber which was practically unsaleable then brings a good price now. I think my statement was not far afeld. It may be that in British Columbia where they had no facilities 30 years ago for cutting lumber except the old fashioned whip-saw, lumber was costly; but now, with their large mills and improved machinery, the cost has been much reduced. Now, let us see whether we are getting three per cent on this money because I want to see how profitable this investment is, and whether the government ought not to consider the propriety of changing their policy. Has the minister made a calculation as to how much three per cent on \$1,430,850 would amount to?

Mr. BRODEUR. I have not made the calculation.

Mr. HENDERSON. He will hardly find he is getting three per cent on the money.

Mr. BRODEUR. If we get \$42,000 next year, it will be three per cent.

Mr. HENDERSON. You only got \$29,332 last year. Is there going to be a bigger run of logs? Bear in mind that the capital is being increased. I am merely inquiring whether we are making a profitable investment of the people's money. I think honestly that we are not bound to keep up those works to the extent that we have been doing in the past.

Mr. BRODEUR. But what can we do with those works?

Mr. HENDERSON. Allow somebody else to keep them up.

Mr. BRODEUR. No one else will keep them up.

Mr. HENDERSON. Then they are not required. Why should we keep up expensive works that even those engaged in the lumber industry do not require? I leave the matter to the minister and his colleagues to consider seriously.

Mr. INGRAM. Is it not a fact that you lose money by reason of some people not paying their dues?

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not think so. I am informed by the deputy that some years ago we lost money, but now the department is more strict in collecting the dues.

Some resolutions reported.

#### ADJOURNMENT—AUTONOMY BILL AMENDMENT.

Mr. FIELDING moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. MONK. I would like to give notice that when the House goes again into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 69) I will