

Mr. ANNAND was surprised to see the reluctance exhibited to divide the grant at that time. The only reason he could think of, as influencing the government, was that they had some electioneering purpose in view.

BOARD OF WORKS.

Hon PROV SEC said that a member of a government would doubtless visit all parts of the county before long, and be able to see how the special grant could be most beneficially divided. He then went on to say that he rose for the purpose of laying on the table, by command of His Excellency, the papers and correspondence relative to the charges made against the Board of Works. These charges, it would be remembered embodied a number of points. It had first been brought to the notice of the House that a member of the Board, an unpaid member, had not only furnished supplies for that department by tender and contract, but had also supplied some articles that were outside of his own line of business. Another point was that, for the first time in the history of the department, wines and liquors had been furnished and charged under the head of "small stores." Another charge was that some of the articles was furnished at a higher price than they could be obtained in the market, though only a cent a lb, it was true. He had stated, on a previous occasion, that no person had been more taken by surprise than he had been when the charges were made against the department. He had immediately called upon the head of the department for the fullest information on the subject, as would be seen by the following letter:—

HALIFAX, May 6th, 1867.

SIR,—

I have it in command from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to call your attention to the enclosed copy of a speech made by A. W. McLelan, Esq., and to call upon you for explanation thereto. His Excellency desires so to be informed whether it has been the practice of the Board of Works under former Governments to furnish wines or liquors in the service of the Government, and under what circumstances you have made any such supplies, and to what extent? His Excellency also desires to know whether it has been the practice of the Board under the late Government to receive supplies for the public service from the members of the Board, and to know under what circumstances Mr. Pugh was entitled to supply articles in which he was not in the habit of dealing.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES TUPPER.

F. BROWN, Esq.,

Chairman of the Board of Works.

To that letter the Government received a reply, which he would read to the House. He did not intend, he might say, to offer any defence for the course that had been pursued. He must state frankly, if the department was got on the point of passing from the control of the Local Government, it might be very advisable to regulate by enactment that no parties connected with the Board of Works should furnish any supplies to that department. The only change, however, that had been

made in the practice of the department in the present case, it would be seen by the papers before the House was, that it had refused to give false invoices. Under the late Government it was the practice to furnish wines and liquors for the Revenue Cutter, which was used in conveying the judges and members of the Legislature, and performing other public services. Under the late Government these wines and liquors were charged as beef, pork, tea, &c., whereas now they were entered as "small stores." He would now read the letter he had received in reply to that sent to the head of the department:—

HALIFAX, 6th May, 1866.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, directing my attention to a speech made in the House of Assembly by A. W. McLelan, Esq., and calling upon me for explanations in relation thereto.

In reply, I beg to state that it has been the practice of the Board of Works, under former Governments, to furnish wines and liquors to the Government vessels, in proof of which I append a statement from Mr J B McNab, Chief Clerk in this office, shewing also that members of the Board, under former Governments, furnished supplies in large quantities, both by contract and otherwise.

Mr McLelan states that in July and August last the charges for small stores amounted to \$1600: this statement is incorrect. All the small stores charged for the whole year only amounted to \$830,—of this amount \$674 was paid for wines and liquors, the balance—\$156—being for other small stores, as will appear by the account's enclosed, shewing in detail the charges for small stores.

With regard to Mr Pugh's supplying articles, in which he was not in the habit of dealing, I have to state that under the circumstances it was considered important that the quarantine buildings should be erected immediately, and therefore there was not time to obtain lumber, &c, by tender and contract in the usual way.

Relative to the charges made in reference to the price of zinc, and alleged overcharge in weight of chest of tea, I beg to say that on referring to the original entries in Mr Pugh's books, I found that three zinc caps and one conductor had been omitted in the acct, although their value had been included in the price of the two sheets of zinc charged in the account. I found also that two entries of tea had been included in the charge of 122 pounds, one on the 14th July of 25 pounds, the other on the 24th of 97 pounds.

I append Messrs H H Fuller & Co and Messrs E Albro & Co's certificates, shewing that Mr Pugh paid those firms 16 cents per pound for manilla cordage, notwithstanding Mr McLelan's assertion that 15 cents was the price of that article.

Although it would appear at first sight that the accounts for supplies for the "Druid" and "Daring" seem large, it must be borne in mind that those vessels were employed during the last season, without intermission, in saving valuable cargoes of cotton, &c, on Sable Island, and that in consequence a very large staff of extra men were employed on several occasions from 30 to