

and in excess of those of the House of Commons. Therefore, when I heard that the House of Commons had voted a certain sum to their messengers, I did not think that we should go beyond that. But when the House of Commons chose to increase the amount, there was no reason why our messengers should be placed at a disadvantage as compared with the messengers of the other House. While I agree as to the expediency of making this allowance at this time of the session, still I do not think we will place ourselves in a very dignified position by dividing the House on this Bill.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—I cannot allow the remarks of the hon. gentleman from New Westminster to pass without a slight comment. I do not know what he meant or intended to convey by his very courteous words—the smallest thing ever perpetrated by a Government—but one thing I can tell him, that the late Sir John Macdonald, had he been here, would have been just as safe a guardian of the public funds as the hon. gentleman could be. Sir John Macdonald's views of right and wrong certainly cannot be gauged by the opinions expressed by the hon. gentleman from New Westminster. The report of the Contingent Accounts Committee was based upon principle. That principle I expressed very fully at the time—that I thought either House should deal in matters of public expenditure as far as possible in the same manner as they would deal with their own funds, and I question very much if the hon. gentleman would have put his hand in his pocket to pay any one of his servants \$125 a month when he had agreed to pay him only \$2.50 per day. It is singularly unfortunate that in public affairs, people have their pets that they desire to pay, at the expense of the country, more than they should legally receive. We have acted upon the broad principle of paying our messengers the wages that we agreed to pay them. If any one has done extra service then I say a gratuity should be paid to him, as one would do in private business, and as I have no doubt would be done here if circumstances warranted such payment, but I object *in toto* to the construction put upon my action. I took the course that I pursued here upon my own individual responsibility, but I am quite satisfied that the Government, if their opinion were asked, would justify my course in that matter; nor should I have deviated

from that had it not been from the fact that the House of Commons thought proper to make an allowance to their messengers, and I could see no equitable reasons why the messengers of this House should not receive the same consideration. As to the Bill now before us, I have not the slightest objection to record my vote in its favour, though, as I intimated when I moved the motion, I think it would be more dignified—and I say it unreservedly—if members of either House did not urge this matter session after session. However, as the Bill has been passed by the House of Commons, it will place the Senate in an invidious position were they to reject it. If we are to have a division I trust the hon. gentleman from Ottawa will not be excused from recording his vote, because he has no personal interest, nor has any other hon. gentleman who has been at the seat of Government during the whole period of the session. It affects only those who happened to be absent. I almost regret having made those remarks, but I considered them necessary, because I did not think the hon. gentleman's remarks were warranted under the circumstances. I might call his attention to this also—I know of no by-election which has taken place, except the one in Middlesex, during this session.

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B.C.)—I was speaking of last year.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—We are not dealing with the matters of last session. There has been no “gallivanting about the country,” or electioneering that I am aware of, unless it has been in the election of the gentleman who has just taken his seat in the House of Commons for Middlesex. It is one of the rights of a British subject to take part in elections and endeavour to elect the man of his choice, in order to affirm the principles which he believes to be right in governing the country without his action being designated as “gallivanting.”

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B.C.)—He should do it at his own expense.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—I shall take part in elections as long as I have the health and strength to do it, and I have no doubt the hon. gentleman would do the same thing if he thought he could help his party.