

Inspector * * * Mr. Campbell's dismissal was recommended by the Inspector and consented to by the gentleman himself, who considered that his services at his business were worth a great deal more to him than his salary as an official of the country."

My hon. friend did state this, and he had no right to shelter himself behind the Inspector.

Mr. BURPEE: I distinctly said what I have stated.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: There is no doubt that you said it was done on the report or letter of the Inspector.

Mr. BURPEE: I called the attention of the hon. member for Kingston to the matter at the time, and I referred to it the following day. I made the statement I have mentioned in the most distinct manner in my place in the House.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: The Minister of Militia is reported in the *Hansard* to have said:—

"My hon. friend has referred to another matter in connection with the dismissal of Customs officials in the county of Victoria. This I know nothing about; but I think he is the last member in this House who should condemn it, after the Minister of Customs had stated that, to the best of his recollection, they were removed on the report of Mr. Kerr, who, it is well known, was appointed by the hon. gentleman himself."

Mr. McDONALD (Cape Breton): I have a distinct recollection of the matter brought up—

Some HON. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. McDONALD: I am not at all surprised—

Mr. SPEAKER: A question of order has been raised. There is nothing before the House.

Mr. MITCHELL: I move the adjournment of the House, in order that the hon. gentleman may make his statement.

Mr. McDONALD: I have a distinct recollection of what took place when the hon. member for Victoria brought this matter up. The Minister of Customs then distinctly stated that the dismissals were made on the recommendation of the Inspector of Customs for the Province of Nova Scotia, but that he had not had sufficient time to read the report.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD; Exactly.

Mr. McDONALD: That was distinctly stated; but, when the question came up the second time, the Minister of Customs qualified that statement.

Mr. BLAKE: I understand it to be the rule of the House that the statement of any hon. member as to what he may have said during a debate is to be accepted as conclusive. I do not understand that this is susceptible of contradiction at the hands of any other hon. gentleman, and still less certainly is it susceptible of contradiction at the hands of reporters, whether official or unofficial, for which no member will allow himself to be held responsible. I took occasion during the debate on the *Hansard* to say that, for my part, I would not be held responsible for what the reporters at that table may make me say, any more than I would hold myself responsible for what the reporters in the gallery might make me say, and I am sure I would be very sorry to be held responsible for that.

Mr. BOWELL said the hon. the Minister of Customs stated that the dismissal took place either on a letter or a report received by him from the Inspector. The hon. gentleman had failed to bring down those letters as part of the documents which had been laid before the House.

Mr. BURPEE (St. John): That is another matter.

Mr. BOWELL said he was quite aware of that fact. The understanding of the statement of the hon. the Minister of Customs on this side of the House was distinctly that given utterance to by the hon. member for Cumberland. In almost every return he had moved for himself he had scarcely ever received the information asked for.

Mr. MASSON said he could add another instance as to the incompleteness of the returns. He referred to that relating to the Jesuits' Barracks. He did not blame the hon. the Premier for this, as he did not think he (Mr. Mackenzie) intended to deceive the House; but the House was deceived nevertheless.