

May 2, 1872

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** asked what proportion of the time of the person was devoted to the public service while on commission, and what fees he received.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said, before the Dominion there were Commissioners, of which the person in question was one, and the member for Northumberland (Hon. Mr. Hutchison) was another. That member had done nothing but supply everything out of his own store at his own prices, while the gentleman whose pension had been called in question had done all the work. The Minister of Marine (Hon. Senator Mitchell) had thought this a very bad system and had appointed the gentleman in question at a fixed salary to do the whole work. There was no injustice, and if there was, why was not the matter brought up on its merits? The gentlemen opposite seemed inclined to agree with the Government on the general question.

**Hon. Mr. HUTCHISON** said he desired to state the truth of the matter. As to the gentleman in question having done the whole work, he (Hon. Mr. Hutchison) had invariably accompanied him on his trips; and, as to the supplies, they could not have been obtained at a cheaper rate elsewhere. He repeated that the pension was a fraud on those who subscribed to the fund.

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** rose to explain the matter stating that the case was exactly parallel to that of Custom House officers in Nova Scotia who, before Confederation, were paid at 10 per cent on the revenue they collected, but were afterwards appointed at salaries. In the present case, the officer had been appointed by the Government of New Brunswick as a Commissioner of Lights within a section of the Province. He held that position until Confederation when, there being no superannuation in contemplation, he was appointed Inspector of Light-houses for the whole Province at a salary of \$1,200. After being three or four years in the Service, he became incapacitated on twenty years service, but the Treasury Board, from the fact that the commissions received during many years were small as compared with the salary, decided that he should only be superannuated on ten years' service.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** asked what time the gentleman had devoted to his work when on commission, and what was the amount of the remuneration.

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** could not say, but the reduction was made especially on account of the small remuneration.

**Hon. Mr. ANGLIN** did not know how to characterize the attempt to create an impression in the House and country that the gentleman was in any sense of the term an officer of the Government of New Brunswick entitled to any consideration on this account. The appointment was merely honorary, the amount received being only 45 dollars among three gentlemen, and he would like to hear the Minister of Customs (Hon. Mr. Tilley)

attempt in New Brunswick to make such a statement as he had just done. As to the member for Northumberland (Hon. Mr. Hutchison), throughout the length and breadth of the Province his honour and unimpeachable veracity were unquestioned.

**Hon. Mr. BLAKE** thought the fact of an appointment of a person over 70 years in age required explanation.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** was not conversant with the particulars, but it was perfectly obvious that he was appointed because he had previously held the position.

**Hon. Mr. BLAKE** denied that the two positions were at all alike.

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** said, as an illustration, he might point to the Minister of Finance (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks), who was over 70 and still had the confidence and support of the country.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** asked whether the resolution would be withdrawn.

**Mr. JOLY** said he must refuse to withdraw his motion.

The debate was then adjourned.

In reply to the question of **Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE**, as to the order of business tomorrow,

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** said that it was expected the leader of the Government would be in his place tomorrow when the question of the Washington Treaty would be brought in. It was intended that afterwards the small Bill which was in his (Hon. Sir George-É. Cartier's) charge with regard to the Pacific Railway, should be taken up. Should the consideration of these two measures not exhaust the time at the disposal of the House, it was the intention to go into Committee of Supply.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** asked whether before the Government proceeded with what the hon. gentleman facetiously called his "small Bill" the House would be favoured with the report upon the exploratory survey of the railway. That report was absolutely necessary to a proper understanding of the question, for without it members would be completely ignorant as to the route of the proposed railway and other points which it is desirable should be fully understood.

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN** said the report would be brought down before the Bill was proceeded with tomorrow.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE:** Printed?

**Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN:** Yes, printed.

The House adjourned at midnight.