

self—paid out to the company of which he was a private partner in connection with Mr. Jones,—\$10,174. But it appears that that was not sufficient to meet the necessities, or the desires, at all events, of this rapacious company; for the next year, Mr. Vail was able to put his hand in the Treasury, of which he was the sworn guardian, and take out of the public money, in violation of the law that he was bound as a member of this Parliament to preserve intact, not less than \$14,198.68. In two years, over \$24,000 of public money taken out of the Treasury of the country, in defiance of the law; taken out by one partner to be divided with another, who was also a member of this House. These gentlemen seem to think it is quite a sufficient answer that they did not make any money by the speculation. Mr. Jones stated on a public platform, if I remember right, that instead of making any money, it had cost him \$2,000 out of his own pocket. He seemed to consider that that should absolve him from all question as to the propriety of the transaction. It is a fine distinction to draw. They got \$26,000 of public money, —and, perhaps, the House would be curious to know—what that service cost, which required over \$12,000 a year, under Mr. Vail's administration, for the paper in which Mr. Jones and he were partners—what that service cost under the previous Administration. The House will be, perhaps, a little surprised to learn that the average cost for the six years previous, for the same service, was \$3,935 a year. The hon. the Minister of Militia says in answer to that, "Aye, but the change was made of the way offices in the meantime in Nova Scotia, into post offices." But I happen to have a little evidence upon that question, which will at once dispose of the fallacy that is raised there. I put the question across the floor of this House to the hon. the Postmaster-General as to the effect of changing these way offices. I mean the late Postmaster-General, the Hon. D. A. Macdonald. I have his answer here.

It being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess

MR. TUPPER continued. He said: When the House rose I was speaking as to the character of the charges that have been made by Mr. Jones and Mr. Vail, as the *Citizen Printing Company*, in connection with the amount of public money which they have illegally been enabled to take from the Treasury of the Dominion Government, and I drew the attention of the House to the fact that, whereas, the amount paid per year for the six years for the public printing of the Post Office Department at Nova Scotia, and passing into the hands of Mr. Crosskill, was \$3,935, or \$23,610 for the six years. These gentlemen have succeeded in abstracting from the Treasury of Canada, for the same services, no less than \$24,452 in two years, or an average of \$12,226 per annum. I said before the recess that it had been argued in extenuation of these transactions, that the way offices in Nova Scotia had been made into post offices, and the expenses had consequently been increased by reason of this alteration. I happen to have an authority upon this point, which will not be disputed—that of the hon. late Postmaster-General, the Hon. D. A. Macdonald. It will be found in the 1087th page of the *Hansard* of 1875, and if gentlemen will take the trouble to look there, they will see that after this experiment had been fairly tried, Mr. Macdonald was enabled to state to the House that it had involved no increase of expense. He said, in reply to a question:

"The Department was making the way offices in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia post offices as fast as possible. This policy had been adopted during the last six months and did not involve any increased cost."

I think that will be regarded as tolerably strong evidence as to what the character of these charges were.

MR. MACKENZIE said he did not see it.

MR. TUPPER: Well, Sir, if the hon. the Prime Minister is not satisfied with that, I will give him the evidence of the Postmaster-General, who sits by his side. He declares that this service in Halifax cost 50 per cent. more