

Mr. ROSS. There is a sum of \$192,920 for Manitoba and the North-West Territory under the sub-head of Indians. We are voting a large sum for Indians, and here we have drawn in advance almost \$200,000.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I know we have. We hoped the last year or two that we would be able to keep this expenditure down, and we have approached Parliament with the estimates at the lowest possible sum. But as the time arrives we find it necessary before the close of the year to supply a sufficient quantity of food for any emergency that may arise, as was the case last year when it was found absolutely necessary to supply at an early day an ample quantity of food. It will be found that the expenditure will be about the same, and we have asked about the same sum. In some cases the price is more under the new tenders than it was under the old contracts. Beef, for example, which was 8½ cts. under the old contract will now cost 12 cts. or 13 cts., owing to the increased demand in the United States for animals for cattle ranches; and we have not yet had a supply in the North-West sufficient to meet the demands of the Indians and Mounted Police.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 12:25 o'clock a.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

FRIDAY, 18th May, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that when the House adjourns this day it shall stand adjourned until three o'clock p.m. to-morrow, and that on that day and the following Monday Government Measures shall have precedence.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. Mr. Speaker: I find, by the Debates of the House, that during my absence last week owing to suffering from a severe cold, reference was made to a matter in which my name was connected with that of Mr. Whitehead, and I think some explanation is due to the House, as well as to the country, concerning it. The only reason I have not brought the matter before the House before this is simply because I was unwell. The evidence given before the Commission on Pacific Railway matters has been published and read by hon. members, and it has been made the subject of an attack on me, and insinuations that, I think, are not only unjust, but absolutely untrue. When the Pacific Railway Commission was formed I was absent from home, and, reading in the newspapers that certain statements had been made by parties—I am sorry to say some of them interested in misrepresenting me—I wrote a letter to the Commission, and the following is the purport of it:—

"To the hon. the Commissioners appointed to enquire into Pacific Railway Expenditure, &c.

"GENTLEMEN,—From reports in Winnipeg newspapers Mr. Joseph Whitehead was examined by you, touching certain business transactions with me in connection with his contracts with the Dominion Government. Garbled extracts from his evidence as well as what must be the hearsay evidence of others have been republished in newspapers of this and other Provinces, these being used by my political opponents, and the political opponents of the existing Dominion Government, for the pur-

pose of making unjust insinuations—if not direct charges against the latter—as well as against myself.

"As my business relations with Mr. Whitehead began when the late Government, to which I was politically opposed, held the reins of power; as I acted as his agent in Ottawa, as all my monetary dealings with him were the result of deliberate agreement, entered into at his request, and of his own free will—I have been unable to discover in what capacity I or my business affairs can be subjected to the inquisition of a Royal Commission appointed 'to enquire into and report upon the acts of the Government of Canada, its officers and servants,' and the conduct of those who have entered into contract and dealings with the Government. Nevertheless, as the Commission has deemed it advisable to examine Mr. Whitehead as to his private and public affairs, outside of the public and official 'record,' I desire to supplement Mr. Whitehead's statement, made as it apparently was without the aid of counsel or of the opportunity of referring to documents and papers relating to this matter—so that the public may be able to distinguish the facts which bear on the conduct of their representatives and servants from those which are personal and private, and, therefore, not to my mind, constitutionally within the inquisitorial jurisdiction of Commissioners, Royal or otherwise.

"Hence I shall be glad to be informed on what day it will be convenient for the Commissioners to give me an opportunity of making my statement.

"I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

"O. H. MACKINTOSH.

"OTTAWA, Ont., October 23rd, 1880."

Pursuant to that application made by me, I was requested to appear. I was not summoned before the Commissioners, and was not asked to give evidence. I went there, and made my statement. My statement was a very full one, and I was cross-examined very fully also. I showed that my relations with Mr. Whitehead had no connection with the Government; that on no ground, and on no occasion whatever, had I made any application to the Government asking them to do what any former Government had not done. This was established by the evidence. The judgment of the Commissioners was this:

"We concluded, upon the evidence on this subject, that no part of the proceeds of the said notes, or any other money coming from Mr. Whitehead to Mr. Mackintosh, had the effect of or was used for the purpose of obtaining for Mr. Whitehead or for any other person any advantage concerning this contract, or any other matter in connection with this railway. The notes were at first discounted by Mr. Mackintosh. They were subsequently returned by him, and eventually returned to Mr. Whitehead. On other occasions considerable sums of money or notes changed hands from Mr. Whitehead to Mr. Mackintosh under circumstances which we found, on investigation, not to affect the public interests, and we do not think it necessary further to allude to them."

Again:

"We have taken evidence at some length concerning the dealings between the Government and him, while he was carrying on the contract, with the view of ascertaining whether he had obtained any favor by improper means or otherwise, at the expense of the public; and all the evidence on this subject leads us to conclude that since the execution of the contract, no influence had been exercised on his behalf more effective than his own representations were or would have been; and that he has not gained from the Department, or any member of Parliament, or any engineer, or any other person in the Government's employ, an advantage that was not consistent with the best interests of the country."

That was the deliberate finding of the Commissioners upon the evidence which had been given; and that evidence was not alone my evidence—the judgment was given not alone on my evidence, but on the corroborated statements of several other witnesses; and I was able to show, as I think the hon. Minister of Railways will bear me out in saying, that on no occasion, and at no time, did I ever approach him and request him to do anything to compromise his position as the Chief of the Department, or myself as a private gentleman. I can also say this: That so far as Mr. Whitehead's interests are concerned, the fact is that when the matter came before the Commission, and since then, and since it has been discussed in the public press, I never approached the hon. leader of the Government. I never referred to the hon. Minister of Railways, and on no occasion whatever asked what I should do in this matter, whether I should make any explanation here to-day, or as to what I should say when I went before the Commissioners. I may also state, that on no occasion did I ever ask the Government for a favor which I would be afraid to make this