

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the Government had not erected any building or official residence at Westminster, nor established a Canadian Embassy; but Mr. Jenkins was instructed to look out for an office with more accommodation than the present one, where Canadians visiting London could go and receive such information as might be necessary for them. They proposed, in fact, to establish a sort of Canadian library of books of reference and newspapers, and so offer such facility for information as was necessary for those calling upon the Dominion agent.

The matter was brought before the attention of the late Government by Mr. McDougall; it occupied the attention of the House upon a previous occasion, and the Government had no hesitation in directing Mr. Jenkins to obtain the increased accommodation referred to. The Immigration Minister of Ontario was about to visit London, and the Government had communicated with him to let him know that such accommodation was provided. The principal object in securing the building was for the purposes of the immigration agency, but those to which he had just referred were also calculated upon. There was no official residence, and nothing of the kind was expected.

Mr. BROUSE called attention to the inefficient character of the medical officers employed on emigrant ships, and stated that he was informed on good authority that the salaries of the chief and second surgeon in some cases did not exceed four and five shillings a day, respectively. The matter should, he thought, engage the attention of the Government.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said the matter belonged more properly to the Imperial Government, which enacted from time to time such laws as were thought necessary for the regulation of ocean and emigrant vessels leaving British ports.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he had given notice of a question upon this vote when it was passing through Committee of Supply, in connection with the appointment of Mr. Jenkins as Agent General of the Dominion. He asked what was the position of Mr. Jenkins, and in what respect that position differed from the position held by Mr. Dixon. The Order in Council laid upon the table was not very specific on the matter, and he would like to know exactly what was the position of the hon. gentleman, and whether increased powers had been given to him.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said Mr. Jenkins would have complete surveillance over the emigration agents in Europe, and in England especially. He would have to go down to the Provinces occasionally and direct operations there. He would also be expected to give some attention to Canadian gentlemen calling in London, and afford them the necessary introductions.

He would also have to attend to other business of the Canadian Government. For instance, there was a dredge being built in London just now, and there was a Mr. Scott who simply gave the order, and who was receiving two per cent, without even superintending the work. The Government thought this entirely unnecessary, and Mr. Jenkins would therefore have charge of such duties as that, and any others which might be committed to him

from time to time. When any special confidential political matter was confided to him he would attend to it, but he had no stated political duties. A good deal of his time would no doubt be taken up with attending to visitors enquiring after Canadian affairs and discharging special duties which might be entrusted to him outside of the emigration department.

The Government thought that in view of all these extra duties it was only just to raise his salary \$1,000 over that paid to his predecessor. He further stated that there was a clerical error in the Estimates, and that the salary for Mr. Jenkins should have been \$4,000 instead of \$3,000.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: Is he to be paid specially for the extra services he may perform?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: No.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he was very glad to hear that Mr. Jenkins had not been appointed to hold anything like the position of an ambassador. It would have been a very unfortunate thing, he thought, if such a step had been taken by the Government. The idea, however, had gained ground that he had been appointed as a *quasi* ambassador, or as nearly so as our connection with the Mother Country would enable the Government to appoint him. That hon. gentleman had, in his speech at Dundee, represented himself as the representative of Canada on all matters of importance at the Court of St. James.

In the first place he (Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) did not think any such person should be appointed, and he did not think any ambassador should be appointed who was a member of the English Parliament. The two positions were altogether inconsistent. As a member of the British Parliament addressing his own constituency, no one could cavil at his using such language to express his ideas as he thought proper. That language, it must be obvious, would be offensive to parties of high standing in England. Unfortunately Mr. Jenkins' duties to his constituents had led him to make an attack upon the Imperial Government of the day, calling one very prominent member of it "a screaming marquis" and the Prime Minister "a Penang lawyer". If the representative of any foreign nation in England had made use of such language, the Government would have been bound to ask for an immediate recall. The hon. gentleman, by putting himself in a false position, had utterly destroyed his opportunities of usefulness during the existence of the present Government. He hoped, however, no injury would result to the country from that gentleman holding his present position.

He (Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) was of opinion that were either Mr. Gladstone or Mr. Bright coming into power again they would not look upon Mr. Jenkins with any great favour either. The fewer matters of political importance which went through Mr. Jenkins' hands so much the better, so far as he thought. He quite admitted that hon. gentlemen in the Government could not be held responsible for Mr. Jenkins' words upon that occasion but he should at least have been cautioned on his appointment to do nothing of that kind. However he was there and he (Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) hoped that no injury would arise from the