

De Tonnancour, L. C., Monl: caps, 28; blouses, 6 at \$13.

Not ladies' blouses but purely and simply.

1 cloak at \$25.

Not one ladies cloak as he said.

Costumes,—

Not ladies' costumes, but costumes.

—8 at \$30; overcoats, 3 at \$32, 9 at \$25; pants and sweaters, 5 at \$10.50.

There is no reference, as you see, to ladies costumes, to ladies blouses. I did not have the Auditor General's Report with me at the time. I suppose my hon. friend will apologize for me to the officers of my department whom I happened to meet the morning after the hon. gentleman made his remarks and with whom I remonstrated with regard to the purchase of these ladies' blouses. Of course, when I saw the hon. gentleman reading from a book I thought he was reading correctly, I took his word for it and I remonstrated with the officers. What did I find, as the officers immediately informed me, that this was absolutely erroneous. There were no ladies' costumes, no ladies' blouses, no anything purchased for ladies. It was all a part of the imagination of my hon. friend. In order to complete the record I will lay before the House the accounts themselves. They are in French and I will read them in French.

Mr. J. D. REID. Read them in English too.

Mr. BRODEUR. They are as follows:

Montreal, 12 août 1907.

De L. C. de Tonnancour.

1907.		
Août	12-9 pardessus à \$25. . . . .	\$225 00
"	12-8 costumes à \$30. . . . .	240 00
"	12-5 pants and sweaters à \$10.50. . . . .	52 50
"	casquettes. . . . .	24 50
"	12-1 pardessus. . . . .	32 00
"	12-1 pardessus. . . . .	32 00
"	12-1 pardessus. . . . .	32 00
"	12-1 manteau. . . . .	25 00
"	12-1 coiffure. . . . .	3 50
"	12-6 blouses. . . . .	78 00
	Total. . . . .	\$744 50

Again there is no reference at all in these accounts to ladies' costumes, or ladies' blouses or ladies dresses. The translation which was made by the Auditor-General was not absolutely correct but I will not say that it was incorrect. At all events what I take exception to is the fact that my hon. friend has thought fit to charge me before the House with having purchased ladies' dresses, when, in the book from which he was then reading, these words were not included. I hope my hon. friend will take the first opportunity of withdraw-

Mr. BRODEUR .

ing the charge which he has made against me and if he does so it will prevent him and some of his friends from going into the country and trying to state that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has been purchasing ladies' dresses. I may say for the information of my hon. friend that these blouses, costumes, overcoats and cloaks were for the use of the sailors and that we have been in the habit of purchasing these articles for years. I hope my hon. friend will be kind enough to withdraw what he said.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I was somewhat surprised this morning when I received the following letter:

(Office of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa, 6th April, 1909.

Geo. Taylor, Esq., M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Taylor,—I beg to notify you that I intend to bring before the House to-day as a question of privilege, when the orders of the day are called, the charge that you made against me in your speech the other day to the effect that I had put my hand in the public chest for the purchase of a lady's cloak and ladies' costumes.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) L. P. BRODEUR.

In speaking the other day I made use of the following language:

I want to ask the minister how much mud this expenditure took out of the ship channel? The money is charged to the ship channel. He will find these accounts in the Auditor General's Report at page O-163:

7 ladies blouses at \$13.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. I am surprised that the right hon. Prime Minister can laugh at that. He is the trustee of the people of this country, and yet he will allow one of his ministers to put his hand in the public chest and spend money like this.

I said nothing personal against the minister for spending money for his own use or for the country's use. I had been talking about the sailors being supplied with three dress suits at \$40 apiece.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. If the minister does not want this debate to be continued he will call off the bull dogs that set up a row every time I talk.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order, the hon. gentleman will have to withdraw that expression.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. I will withdraw the word 'bull dogs' and say their supporters. They are acting like that