

"Mr. James Somerville, M.P., is never happy unless when playing the sneak and the spy in the hope of injuring his brother journalists. In the House of Commons the other day he took up the question of Government printing, which he dealt with in his characteristically disingenuous way. Among the journals that received attention at his hands was the *Hamilton Spectator*. He charged that the *Spectator* had been paid for work it never performed, and with receiving double prices for presswork. The *Spectator* replies under the heading, 'A Common Slanderer':

"Somerville says what he knows to be false. Double prices were not paid for presswork. The *Spectator* was paid at prices fixed by the Mackenzie Government. The *Spectator* was not paid for presswork never performed; and Somerville does not believe or think it was. Ten cents is not the price paid for any presswork under any Government contract whatever; and Somerville knows it is not. The man is a deliberate falsifier; and only hopes to commend himself to the Grits of Auncaster by libelling respectable people."

Now, if these statements were true, I think you will agree with me that they would be sufficient to discredit anything I might say in this House at any future time; but I wish to show, in as few words as possible, that there is not one word of truth in the statement made by the *Hamilton Spectator*. I will just analyse the paragraph as shortly as possible. In the first place—

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman's word will be taken by the House. I think this is not a question of privilege. The hon. gentleman will see that it will open up a debate.

Mr. SOMERVILLE (Brant). I have the contract here, and I shall quote just one line.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman can do that on a motion for adjournment, or on some motion before the House; but the hon. gentleman's statement is quite sufficient for the House, and will be accepted by the House.

Mr. SOMERVILLE (Brant). I will take another opportunity to do so.

Mr. EDGAR. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. SPEAKER. That motion cannot be put; it has just been put. The hon. gentleman may bring up the matter to-night when the motion for adjournment is made. It will be in order then.

Mr. BOWELL. It was not my intention to pay the slightest attention to the reference made by the leader of the Opposition to myself in connection with this matter of the Prince Albert colonisation company had not my hon. friend from East Hastings (Mr. White) brought it under the notice of the House. I desire, however, to put the hon. gentleman right so far as Mr. Jamieson and myself are concerned. I wish it to be distinctly understood, at the same time, that I do not desire the House to think that the statement made by the hon. gentleman was from his own knowledge, but upon information which is not correct. I understand the disingenuous way in which Mr. Jamieson's name was introduced, as well as that of the Minister of Customs. I desire to say on behalf of Mr. Jamieson that he had nothing to do with the selecting of the land. After the Order in Council was obtained, he paid \$500 in cash to a gentleman who was interested in the company for whatever rights he had. When the company was organised, I spoke to him in reference to the matter, and having some interest in the young gentleman, I advised him by all means to get out of the company as fast as he could, and if he could get his money out, the sooner he did it the better for himself pecuniarily. That is my connection with that company, and if it was a crime for me to advise one in whom I took some interest not to have anything to do with the colonisation company, I am quite willing to bear all the odium attached either to the formation of the company or the advice I gave to Mr. Jamieson. I am not prepared to deny that I did not know that the company was being organised. I necessarily knew that, having been a member of the Government when the order was passed.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would like to enquire of the Minister of Customs whether the view expressed by the Premier the other day with respect to the effect of the recent regulation published by the American authorities, has been confirmed; or has he any other information on the subject?

Mr. BOWELL. I have been making enquiry with reference to the effect of that order on the trade of the country. I telegraphed to Washington for a correct copy of the order, which has not yet been received; but from the information we can obtain, the telegraphic despatch has no other bearing on the trade of the country than that which the leader of the Government stated, that is, that it repeals, so far as we can understand it, that portion of the Washington Treaty, which gave the right to shippers in vessels from American ports in the west, to tranship their cargo at the west end of the Welland Canal, and have it reshipped to the east on board vessels for American ports. Under the old regulations, and under the coasting law, that action was considered by the American authorities to be a breach of the coasting law; but under the Washington Treaty special provision was given for the benefit of this trade to be carried on from the west to the eastern ports of the United States. I hope, however, to be able to-morrow, or next day, to give a positive answer to the question.

Mr. BLAKE. I doubt whether that is done under the Washington Treaty; I think it was an executive regulation of the United States after the Washington Treaty had been made. I suppose it was a spontaneous manifestation of good will by the American Government after the treaty was made, as I suppose the withdrawing of the regulation is an expression of the same good will. I would ask the hon. gentleman if he will be prepared to-day to lay on the Table all the correspondence with the Newfoundland Government on the subject of the recent interruption in our trade relations, which has taken place partly by our action and partly by their action. It seems to me it is very important we should have that correspondence at the earliest possible date. The subject has been in agitation, more or less, for several months; in fact, ever since our legislation which created this reciprocal hostile legislation. I cannot conceive there should not have been some communications earlier than July or June, and at any rate there has been, within the last few days, correspondence resulting in the effort, by the suspension of the duty which our Government has imposed, to restore friendly trade relations. We should have all the papers before us, so that we may have an opportunity of looking at them before the Session closes. I hope also we will have no further delay in the presentation of papers concerning the fisheries. It was stated that His Excellency would return to-day, and I trust the delay, which has been very great in the production of the papers, will not be protracted one instant more than necessary.

Mr. BOWELL. I cannot say when I will be able to lay on the Table correspondence between the Newfoundland and this Government. I believe there has been no correspondence other than that by telegraph. In reference to the fishery papers, I will call the First Minister's attention to the matter. They will be laid on the Table as soon as possible, according to the promise made by the First Minister.

WAYS AND MEANS—NORTH-WEST INSURRECTION

House resumed adjourned debate on motion of Mr. Bowell to go into Committee on Ways and Means, and motion of Mr. Blake in amendment thereto.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). Before the adjournment I pointed out that the half-breeds of the North-West