

the rebels were tried there, the Crown did not find sufficient testimony to justify even placing this man on his trial, and he was released without a trial. When he returned home, he found his furs had disappeared; somebody had taken away all he had in the world, the catch of furs of the previous winter. Information which I obtained induced me to make a charge, and it was referred to a special committee of this House, at the instance of the Government. It is not necessary that I should not go into all the testimony that was taken, suffice it to say that the evidence proved conclusively that this man had been wrongfully deprived of his furs, and it was proved with equal clearness that General Middleton and others, officers the officials of this country, had taken those furs away. It was proved that a portion of those furs was brought down to Ontario, that a part of them was brought, I believe, to the city of Ottawa. The evidence was sufficiently strong to make it convenient for General Middleton to resign his position; but that did not pay the unfortunate man who lost the earnings of a lifetime. Bremner was released. His property, as my hon. friend has stated to-day was, in plain Saxon, stolen—stolen by the officials and officers of this Government.

An hon. MEMBER. Of this Government?

Mr. LISTER. Of the old Government. Governments, however, never die. Honest men may come in and dishonest men may go out, but the Queen's Government continues all the same. Sir, General Middleton resigned, he left the country; but poor Bremner, the half-breed of the North-west, never could get hon. gentlemen opposite to extend to him one atom of simple justice. The man since then has been afflicted, paralyzed; he is ruined, he is a pauper to-day, and what my hon. friend asks is that a measure of common justice should be meted out to this man. Hundreds of claimants in that country were paid under the report of the commission issued by the Government to investigate claims for damages alleged to have been sustained during that rebellion; but for some reasons, which I never could fathom, Bremner's claim was ignored by the Government. At last they said that in law Bremner is not entitled to recover anything because his property was taken by the military forces of Canada. That is good law, I believe; but in a case of this kind I doubt the wisdom of any Government setting up such a defence. This man was not a rebel. He was never brought to trial, he left the court-room in Regina a free man as regards any charge of rebellion against the country; and if it can be shown that officials or officers deprived him of his property, surely it is the duty of the Government to make him some compensation. The letter which my hon. friend has just read I have never seen before; but the statements made in it seem to prove that Canadian officials took those

Mr. LISTER.

furs without lawful authority and they were divided between military men and Canadian officials. It was impossible at that late date to get all the evidence that might have been obtained, if we had been in a position to bring the people here and get their evidence before the committee. The evidence set out in this letter was not before the committee, but the evidence submitted was sufficiently strong and convincing to satisfy every man who listened to it, every member of the committee, and, I believe, every member of the Government, that the property of this poor half-breed had been wrongfully taken, and that he had been deprived of his furs; and if the Government is satisfied from the evidence taken by the committee that such is the fact, then, by every rule of justice, honour and honesty, the Government is bound to make compensation to that man.

Motion agreed to.

#### MAIL FROM NEWBURGH TO KINGSTON.

Mr. WILSON moved for:

Copies of correspondence and papers cancelling the contract with Mr. Finkle for carrying the mail from Newburgh to Kingston by the way of Camden East, Wilton, Odessa, &c. Also copies of tenders for carrying the mail from Newburgh to Kingston by the way of Camden East, Wilton, Odessa, &c.; together with all correspondence, reports and papers in connection with this contract.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Finkle had his contract renewed for four years by the old Government, without any tenders having been asked for the work. The new Postmaster General, as has been his custom, cancelled the contract and called for tenders, and tenders were received by his department. I understand that one Edward Martin was the lowest tenderer, and that the contract was awarded to him, and he was notified by the post office inspector at Kingston, Mr. Merrick, on 23rd February, that his contract had been accepted and that he should commence work on April 1st. Martin did what any man would do, he made all preparations necessary to fulfil his contract. On the 19th March he was told by the same post office inspector, not to make any preparation, because it was under consideration by the department that they were likely to change the route. Matters continued in that way until the latter part of March, when he was notified not to commence to fulfil his contract on the 1st of April. I think this is very unfair to Mr. Martin. He was the lowest tenderer, and he had been notified that his tender had been accepted, and he made preparations to carry out the contract. I do not think that the present Postmaster General or any other hon. gentleman in this House would ignore a contract of that kind, and allow a man to suffer loss in consequence. I understand that the tenders of two other persons be-