

Reform Act, a fact which he regretted. He referred to the case of an officer who though possessed of good abilities, only received \$900 per annum.

Hon. Mr. BURPEE regretted that the salary received by the officer referred to was only \$600. The hon. member would, however, understand the difficulty which would arise were the salaries of officers in the small towns increased throughout the Dominion, on account of the increased expenditure which it would involve.

Mr. JONES said all he desired was that officers at the small towns should have preferment to the higher offices, if they were qualified.

Mr. BERTRAM said there were several ports in the Dominion where one officer could perform the duties of Revenue officer and Custom House officer. At Lindsay, \$1,555 were expended to collect a revenue of \$4,657. The Inland Revenue officer could, without much trouble, collect that revenue, and by adopting that arrangement a considerable saving would be effected in the Custom Department.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER regretted that the Minister of Finance, knowing that he (Mr. TUPPER) was anxious to take the earliest opportunity of replying to his speech the other night, and that he had at the request of the hon. member postponed doing so until the motion was made that the SPEAKER do leave the chair,—should again refer in pointed language to abuses in the Customs Department of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The hon. Finance Minister should have left the statement to be made by the hon. gentleman who presides over the Customs Department. He now rose in his place to say—and he mentioned it in justice to himself after the very pointed remarks of the Minister of Finance—that he was prepared to meet any statement which the Minister of Customs could make by which it might be attempted to be shown that during the brief period he (Mr. TUPPER) had the honor of administering that Department he failed in the discharge of his duty to this House or the people of this country in any way whatever. He invited the Minister of Customs if he had any statement to make or any reason to believe that he had failed to efficiently administer the Department when he was at its head, to state the facts specifically to the House, and allow him to reply to them—not such vague insinua-

Mr. Jones.

tions as were made by the Minister of Finance, but some distinct, positive statement by which an hon. member would know what were the charges brought against him, and be prepared to meet them. He might state, for the information of the House, that, so far as the administration of Customs in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia was concerned, the late Government labored for some time under considerable difficulty and disadvantage. It might not be known to the House that the gentleman who was appointed several years ago to the important position of Inspector of Customs, a gentleman of great ability and high character in the public service—unfortunately became insane, and was sent to the hospital for the insane a considerable time ago. Under these melancholy circumstances the Government were reluctant to appoint a successor to that officer, while there was the slightest possibility that his unfortunate malady would be successfully treated, and that officer be enabled to resume his duties. In consequence of that circumstance a vacancy occurred in the important office of Inspector of Customs for a considerable period, and it was only at a comparatively recent date that the Government found that the case was hopeless, and appointed an officer to the position. He (Mr. TUPPER) was quite prepared to admit that under those circumstances, there might not have been that close vigilance which otherwise the Government would have had the advantage of; but he was not aware down to this moment of anything that occurred in the Customs Department of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick which showed that he had failed to discharge his duty. Of course, there was the case at St. John which was brought under the notice of the Public Accounts Committee—that was, however, anterior to the time when he accepted the position of Minister of Customs—and it was dealt with by the Administration the moment it was brought before their notice by the Committee, with very great vigor, almost amounting to harshness. The Finance Minister had indicated a place which, he said, had been the residence of the late Minister of Customs, where a very lax system prevailed. He had not the slightest idea to what place the hon. member referred, and, having discharged the duties of his position to the