

make him prove whether his statements are true. We would not likely have bought his goods unless we thought he had a good stock. I fear it is impossible to satisfy the unlaudable, but, perhaps, excusable curiosity of my hon. friend from Norfolk.

Motion negatived.

#### DRAWBACKS ON EXPORTED GOODS.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant), in moving for a return of all claims presented for drawbacks on goods manufactured for export since March 14th, 1879, showing the names of all applicants, their place of business, the articles on which the drawback was claimed, and the amount of each claim, distinguishing between the claims which have been allowed and those which have been disallowed, and those under consideration and not yet decided, said: I find from the 136th section of the Customs Act of 1877, that—

“The Governor in Council may, under regulations to be made for that purpose, allow on the exportation of goods which have been imported into Canada, and on which a duty of Customs has been paid, a drawback equal to the duty so paid; and in cases to be mentioned in such regulations, and subject to such provisions as may be therein made, such drawback may be allowed on duty-paid goods manufactured or wrought in Canada into goods exported therefrom as aforesaid; and the period within which such drawback may be allowed, after the time the duty was paid, shall be limited in such regulations.”

I trust the Minister of Customs will not think I have asked too much information. I do not know how bulky the return may be, as I have no idea of how many claims for drawbacks have been presented. My objects in making the motion are, first, to show the extent of our export trade, and, secondly to get some information in which my constituents are interested. If the return should prove to be a very heavy one, I should be glad to restrict the terms of the motion, so that the return might be brought down at an early day.

Mr. BOWELL. I would ask the hon. gentleman to insert in his motion after the word “disallow” the words “and the reasons for such disallowance,” as I think it is well to know these reasons.

Mr. PATERSON. I am quite willing, and I would ask the Minister to allow me to add to the motion the words “and copies of regulations which the department may have made.”

Mr. BOWELL. I have no objection.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

#### RETIRING ALLOWANCES OF JUDGES.

Mr. BLAKE moved for a statement of the number of Judgeships in each Province at the time of the Union of such Provinces with Canada, the incumbents of which were under the law entitled in certain events to retiring allowances; and the number of Judges in each such Province actually receiving such retiring allowances at such time; and a like statement for each year since Confederation, as to each Province during such year in the Union down to, and inclusive of, the year 1880. He said: Those who have looked at the Public Accounts, which show year by year the number of persons drawing retiring allowances, who have been occupants of the judicial bench, must have observed some very extraordinary results, if they contrast the number of judicial offices in each Province whose incumbents could possibly have been retired with the number of judges who actually are so retired. Take the number of judicial officers in the Province of Quebec. Take the number of persons who are drawing retiring allowances, and you will see that unless there is a most extraordinary piece of ill luck on the part of the Dominion in that Province, there must have been some very great mistakes in the appointments, or some very great improprieties in the retirements. I am not blaming any particular Government, or assigning any par-

ticular cause; but I think the results are so disproportionate that it would be worth while to tabulate them and ascertain whether this is a sudden rush of annuitants, or whether it is a permanent state of things in one Province as compared with others. The rule ought to be observed—I do not just now say it is not—that a man appointed to judicial office should be of such an age that the public may expect to realize from him a very considerable number of years of active service. He ought to be a person certainly not decaying in years, one who has strength and vigor and ambition to make a place for himself on the bench, who is likely, in fact, to mature and become a better lawyer than when he was appointed to a judicial position. I do not mean to say that that rule is invariable—the condition of the bar at times may be such as to oblige a departure from it; but I think that ought to be the general object of the Government, under these circumstances, and I think the people of this country, always impatient of a system of pensions, would become very restive under a system of pensions which produced for any very long series of years the results which are to be found in Quebec at any rate. Now, I have never at all yielded to the popular prejudice against pensions in respect to the judicial office. I believe it to be necessary to the proper administration of justice, that there should be these retiring allowances. Nothing could be more calamitous than that the House should be in a position to be forced to consider whether a man was so incompetent to discharge his duties as that he should be retired, without something wherewith to maintain his declining years. And if you properly apportion the salary with reference to the obviously great advantages which are derivable from the circumstance that there is to be a retiring allowance, there is in that case a public gain. But while I believe the system to be defensible, there is no doubt a considerable jealousy as to retiring allowances, and we ought to take care that there is no abuse of that system. It seemed to me, on looking at the list to which I have referred, that the results are so very extraordinary that I thought it proper to move for this statement.

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). The return will, of course, be brought down. I have just one observation to make. Not knowing what the object of the hon. gentleman was in moving this return, I was not able to place any facts at my command; but I am not aware that any judges in Quebec or the other Provinces—I can speak with more confidence of my own Province—have been retired improperly.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not make any charge at present. I say nothing on the subject one way or another.

Mr. McDONALD. In that case, I suppose, there had better be no discussion.

Mr. BLAKE. I may make it the subject of observation afterwards.

Motion agreed to.

#### JUDGES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for copies of the Orders in Council appointing two new Judges in British Columbia, and of any correspondence touching the residence and judicial duties of any of the Judges of that Province, said: The House will recollect that last Session provision was made for the appointment of two Judges for British Columbia, and in the course of the discussion, which then took place, a question was raised as to the provision for the residence of those Judges, and also for the residence of one of the existing Judges, the Local legislation in accordance with which we were acting, providing, if I remember rightly, for such a distribution of the Judges as to residence, as would necessitate the change of the residence of one of the Judges from Victoria to some part of the mainland;