

about \$700, who applied to him to use his political influence—because the gentleman is a Government supporter—to have him relieved. That gentleman declined to do so, stating that he had urged on the Department the necessity of putting detectives on duty to prevent smuggling. The party in question then asked the gentleman to lend him \$700 to pay the fine. This the gentleman said he did, when the individual said he thought he had a little start of the Customs yet. I give that as an illustration. Strenuous efforts have been made by the Government to prevent smuggling going on with the United States, and the officers are entitled to thanks for what is being done to protect the honest trader.

Mr. VAIL. I think the Minister will admit that I have never hesitated to say that where people have smuggled they deserve to be punished.

Mr. BOWELL. You always said that, and then you asked to have them relieved.

Mr. VAIL. I never did so. I have only asked the Minister to deal with the people of Nova Scotia as he deals with other people. I ask no favor. I was dealing with the hon. gentleman on business principles. I ask that he should deal with us in the same way as he deals with people in other Provinces. I do not believe the people of Nova Scotia any more than people elsewhere.

Mr. BOWELL. I did not say they did.

Mr. VAIL. The Minister need not go more than a few miles from Ottawa, by rail, to find a place where there is more smuggling in one day than there is in the western part of Nova Scotia in six months. It is very well to tell Delong & Seaman that if they bring on a lawsuit and prove what they have stated, this officer will be dismissed. What have they to do with the matter?

Mr. BOWELL. I did not ask them to bring on the case. I said that if they would bring a case I would assist them.

Mr. VAIL. The Minister has evidently not looked carefully at the letters, or he would have discovered a letter written subsequently, on 18th April. That letter is as follows:—

"In making my statement before Mr. Macleod, I omitted to say that when Mr. MacLaren took the blank printed forms of invoices and bills of lading, that he told me he intended to use them in cases where he could not get a clinch on a man, in this way: he would fill out an invoice and bill of lading as though a man had bought the goods from Delong & Seaman, and while his partner Bonnus would attract a man's attention, he would lay them on a desk; then, under the pretence of searching for documents, he would take these up and accuse a man of smuggling the goods mentioned in the invoice and bill of lading made by MacLaren."

He (Gilliatt) acknowledges having done it.

Mr. BOWELL. He does not acknowledge it.

Mr. VAIL. I do not think any further evidence is required; and I am a little surprised and disappointed that the Minister does not intend to make a full enquiry.

Mr. BOWELL. I did not say so.

Mr. VAIL. The hon. gentleman said he had made a certain enquiry; but he did not say he would continue it. I shall be surprised if he does not continue it. Any man guilty of bribing a man to go into his employer's office at night, as has been described, is not a fit man to be employed under the Government.

Mr. WELDON. I desire to draw the attention of the Minister to a question with regard to the discounts which importers receive. It is a fact that manufacturers in selling to jobbers, give them a certain line of discount, according to the amount which they agree to purchase in a given line, and they should get the benefit of these discounts in the Customs offices; whereas, these parties who are sent to the United States manufacturers to ascertain their terms do not get the real terms. The result is, that when the importer,

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who gets a discount which enables him to sell at the same price as the manufacturer sells to the ordinary buyer, imports a portion of these goods, the Customs officer says the discount is only on so much, and the importer does not get the benefit of his legitimate discounts. There have been many complaints in the city of St. John in regard to this matter, and, as the hon. gentleman knows, a petition was sent to the Board of Trade at St. John, which is composed of a large number of merchants, irrespective of political creeds, and I will read the memorandum attached to it. I may mention, also, as showing the manner in which the St. John merchants are treated, that last year no notice was sent to St. John about the changes in Ways and Means, and the merchants there, after paying the duties *band fide*, were called on afterwards to pay additional duties. The following is the memorandum:—

"The regulations governing the duty payable upon these goods do not sufficiently recognise trade usage and the actual facts. A manufacturer selling by discounts so arranges the discounts as that the jobber who carries a 'line' of the goods is in a position to sell to smaller buyers at the same discount which the manufacturer would. The jobber having agreed to carry a certain value or line, gets the larger discount, and is privileged to buy, from time to time—to keep his line assorted—at the agreed-upon rate of discount, no matter how small the purchase.

"The information upon which the Customs Department has based decisions upon such goods is evidently incorrect. That is, the rate of discount quoted as the selling rate in the market of home production is not the discount given by manufacturers to jobbers, but that given by the manufacturers and the jobbers to those buyers who are not jobbers.

"It is natural to suppose that when manufacturers are asked by any other person than one whom they recognise as a jobber, the discount on their goods, that they will protect the jobbing trade by quoting the established discount at which jobbers sell.

"The information as to the discounts given by manufacturers to the jobbing trade should be obtained by the Government direct from the manufacturers, and not from published lists or quotations, which do not give the lowest wholesale prices.

"The interest of the importer should be considered as well as that of the protected Canadian manufacturer, in regulating fixed values for the payment of duties."

This system is very unfair to the importers, who have capital and credit, as it really places them at a disadvantage as compared with other buyers. There is another point to which I wish to call the attention of the Minister, and that is, that when small packages are sent, say from Great Britain, inside of larger parcels, unknown to the importer, even though he may be prepared to make oath that he knows nothing about them, he has very great difficulty in getting them through the Customs. Sometimes the packages may be for another person; they are not on his invoice, and he may not know their value, and the result is very great hardship and inconvenience. I think that in such cases, where the persons concerned are men of standing and position, a certain allowance should be made, as against those who endeavor to evade the laws.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman's statement is true, to a certain extent, but it opens up a question which would require a great deal of time to discuss fully. The statement he has made, that where a man imports a bale of goods, and a package or enclosure is found therein, great difficulty is found in making entry, is a complaint I have never heard before. In such a case, the difficulty that the man encounters is the confiscation of the enclosure that has not been invoiced. I suppose the hon. gentleman knows that the law is very positive on that point, and that it reads in this way:

"If any goods are found in any packages which are not entered on the invoice or entry, such goods shall be seized and absolutely forfeited."

If there be an enclosure not mentioned in the invoice, there is no discretion with the officers of the Department. Parliament made that law, and I am not aware that the hon. gentleman took any exception to it. It would take half an hour to give the various reasons for this clause. I confess that I took the same view as the hon. gentleman, until I had experience. The only case in which the