

Mr. CHARLTON. I suppose it is the custom to confine these advertisements to the party organs supporting the party in power.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I should think not. I cannot answer that question, but I think the *Free Press* of Winnipeg has got some advertising patronage.

Mr. CHARLTON. On looking through the list I do not find any. Probably by some oversight the *Free Press* was overlooked.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. When a paper is wrong in its politics it is generally wrong all round.

Mr. CHARLTON. This system may have been followed by all past Governments, but it strikes me that in the matter of advertising in the newspapers we should turn over a new leaf and advertise for the purpose of making our wants known, as business men do, for the purpose of getting value for our money.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Quite right.

Mr. CHARLTON. I hope, as the hon. gentleman approves my views, he will act on the suggestion.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am afraid I will have to cross-question my hon. friend on that point, when he is my successor and I am sitting over there.

Mr. CHARLTON. I see a charge of \$500, expenses of removing Mr. Dewdney's family to the North-West.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes; that is quite right.

Mr. CHARLTON. Petty cash disbursements, the same officer, \$208. When we get all these disbursements of this gentleman added together it makes quite a formidable sum, although I presume it is all right. E. McColl, expenses of inspection agencies, \$1,561.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He is a good Grit and a good inspector.

Mr. CHARLTON. One pair of horses for Sir A. T. Galt, \$300. I would ask whether it is at all probable that this is in connection with the \$1,500 expended at the time he was looking up that fifty township colonization grant? I observe there was a vote for a grist mill. Where is the mill located?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The grist mill was near Fort McLeod; but the Government have sold the mill and the farm. They made a very good sale.

Mr. CHARLTON. These are all the questions I desire to ask, and I must congratulate the First Minister upon the kindness which he has shown in answering these questions and on his apparent thorough knowledge of the subject he has in hand.

182. North-West Mounted Police..... \$416,000.00

Mr. CHARLTON. Baker & Co. figure largely also under this head. I suppose they provided supplies after contracts had been advertised for and their tender proved to be the lowest?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes. I may tell the hon. gentleman that formerly we were obliged to advertise for tenders the season before the supplies were wanted, because the parties who had to furnish the articles required were obliged to make thorough arrangements for transport. Baker & Co. were sometimes unwilling to undertake the contract, and nobody else could supply Fort McLeod, Fort Calgary and all along that country. They have received large sums from the Government, and they have occasionally, when other contracts would have paid them better, helped us. We believe that hereafter it will not be necessary to advertise a year before the goods are wanted, under which plan the contractors must run the risk of possible change of prices next season, and must therefore have a very considerable margin. The contract will run out in

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August or September, and we will advertise in the spring or summer for supplies next winter, which will go up by the Canadian Pacific Railway by way of Thunder Bay.

Mr. CHARLTON. Baker & Co.'s head-quarters are at Fort Benton; have all their goods been sent across the border from there?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No; some of the contracts have been supplied east of that. This firm has the most complete system of ox and horse teams in the North-West. They are now, I believe, sending some teams up on the Canadian Pacific Railway, to the western point, and taking them from there to extreme points.

Mr. CHARLTON. There is an item of \$21,481 for provisions furnished by the Hudson's Bay Company. At what points are they so furnished?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Hudson's Bay Company obtained contracts when they were the lowest tender. They never undertook to deliver everything required in one advertisement; but they have supplied pretty much the goods along the North Saskatchewan, all the way from Winnipeg to Edmonton. They have taken some other contracts along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway; but Captain Howard has now got most of the contracts there, his being the lowest tender.

Mr. CASEY. While the payment of the force has been reduced by \$5,000, the item for forage has been increased \$8,400; for transport and freight charges, guides, teamsters, laborers and mail carriers, \$10,000; and clothing, \$7,000.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have already explained that matter to the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). In consequence of the largely increased survey parties and the influx of immigrants the cost of transport is increased to an enormous extent, and it is very difficult to get any transport at all. For the same reason the cost of forage has increased. I hope by-and-bye that will not be the case; but at this moment hay is higher than it was last year.

Mr. CASEY. At most of the Mounted Police stations it was expected that the men would cut their own hay, and items for mowing machines have been passed on that understanding. I very much doubt the accuracy of the information that hay has risen in price, as it can be obtained for the mere cutting. As to oats, I do not think the price has increased. Last fall I think they were rather less than the year before. I notice that \$58,400 are down for the subsistence and forage of 360 horses, which seems to be very extravagant, over \$160 a horse. I would ask my friends from Manitoba, whether this is not excessive in the North-West, where nothing is paid for stabling, and you can get hay for the cutting. Oats, of course, are moderately high, but they are not such a very extravagant figure. The statement as to the cost of transportation, has, of course, considerable weight. No doubt the influx of settlers in the older parts of the country, affects this cost; but there has been no great influx to Fort McLeod that I know of, or to other points. It is only in connection with Regina and that neighborhood, that this has had very much to do with the cost of transportation. I do not think that any increase has taken place in the cost of it in the older settlements, that would account for an increase of \$10,000, or 33 per cent. over the estimate of the previous year.

Mr. CHARLTON. Has the Police force succeeded in furnishing themselves to any extent with forage, oats, hay, &c?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No. We tried the experiment of conducting a farm, but we found that the two things did not go at all together.

Mr. CASEY. It is very likely that the policemen could not afford to do a good deal of cultivation, but it is absurd to