

NORTHERN RAILWAY ENQUIRY.

COMMITTEE SELECTED.

Mr. MACKENZIE moved:

"That the House do now name the Committee ordered on the 5th March last to enquire into the matters connected with the Northern Railway and Northern Extension Railway."

Motion agreed to.

*Vote taken and the following Committee selected:—*Me-srs. Guthrie, Archibald, Bertram, DeVeber, Casgrain, Killam, McCarthy, Palmer, and Bowell.

Mr. MACKENZIE moved:

"That it is desirable that any witnesses which are to be examined by the Committee appointed to enquire into the allegations contained in the report and evidence made and obtained by the Commission of Enquiry into the affairs of the Northern Railway Company should be examined under oath."

Motion agreed to.

DISMISSALS FROM OFFICE.

EXPLANATIONS AND REMARKS.

Mr. VAIL: I desire to say a few words with reference to a personal matter, for which, under the circumstances, I hope the House will pardon me. It will be remembered that a few days ago a debate took place in this House on the question of the dismissal from office of certain men in the county of Victoria. Reference was then made to a letter written by myself to the member for Victoria, and that letter was produced and read in the House. It was marked "private and confidential," but nevertheless I expressed my willingness to have it read here. I find in a paper printed in Toronto—which I understand to be the organ of the Opposition—reference made to this letter, and there is printed what purports to be a perfect copy of it as to both wording and spelling. I have nothing further to say with regard to this matter than this: I do not accuse or charge the hon. member for Victoria of having had any part whatever in this transaction for which other persons are responsible, and I desire, as I think is but fair, that this letter should be laid on the table in order that hon. members may have the opportunity of examining it for them-

selves and of seeing whether it corresponds with the printed letter.

Mr. TUPPER: I am equally reluctant to take up the time of the House with a personal matter, but I am quite certain that the House will give me the same opportunity that has been extended to the Minister of Militia. On the occasion of the debate referred to, the Minister of Customs stated that the dismissals to which reference was made were made on the report of the Inspector, and the Minister of Militia stated, in his place, that the hon. member for Cumberland ought not to complain as the dismissals were made on the report of an Inspector appointed by himself. I have now in my hand a copy of the papers brought down under order of the House by the Minister of Customs, and these papers disclose the fact that no report was received from any Inspector, and that the only report upon which the Government took action were letters from the two candidates against whom these men had voted at the elections, Mr. Ross, the Collector of Customs at Halifax, and Mr. Tremain, a late member of this House.

Mr. BURPEE (St. John): As this matter has been brought up, I have only to say that, when I made that statement, I said "letters or a report."

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: But from the Inspector.

Mr. BURPEE: I called the attention of the House to the fact I have mentioned the same day, and when the hon. member for Kingston made a speech on another occasion, I again repeated it. I then said that I was not prepared to say precisely whether it was done on letters or a report.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: The hon. gentleman stated that it was done on letters or correspondence received from the Inspector.

Mr. BLAKE: I understood the Minister of Customs to say what he says he did state, and not what the hon. member for Kingston says he stated.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: The following is from the *Hansard* report:—

"Whatever action was taken in the matter was on the recommendation of the