

or four heads, at most, and would have shown that such a number report in a certain direction, and such a number in another. But the result of all this vast expenditure can only be to excite amusement, if it does not excite indignation at the waste of money. I think all the gentlemen of the House will agree with the remarks I have made in that direction, when they look at the book and read it. The First Minister says he has not read it, but if he looks through it he will agree that it was a waste of money to print it.

Mr. MILLS. I have already pointed out that these questions were not calculated to elicit information which would enable the House to come to an intelligent conclusion. It was, instead, a sort of political catechism addressed to various electors throughout the country to elicit the political opinions which they held on various questions connected with the Tariff. When we look at the character of these questions, they seem to have been drawn up for the purpose of ascertaining the political views and feelings of the party to whom they were addressed. Now, here is question 13:

"Are woollen goods and hardware in common use amongst the farmers increased, or otherwise, in price by the Tariff?"

In answer to this question, I find one gentleman says:

"No; they are lower than they formerly were. Woollen goods are cheaper."

When I look further, I find in answer to that question that the same gentleman says that wool brings a better price than it did before, on account of the Tariff. You have dearer wool, higher wages, and yet cheaper woollen goods. All those things which make up the price of the article are higher than before, but the article itself is cheaper than before. Then, with regard to the prosperity of the parties, I find that those very parties who were selling their goods at a lower price than before are more prosperous than they were before. Now, are these answers of the slightest value to the House? It seems to me an utter waste of public money to employ it in the publication of a document of this sort, and I say so without any disrespect to the Chairman of this Committee.

Mr. FERGUSON (Leeds and Grenville). If these questions constitute a political catechism, they possess a strange significance. The hon. member for Perth (Mr. Trow) said a few moments ago that he was on that Committee, and as a representative member of the Opposition he stated distinctly that very few members of the Opposition sent out those questions to their constituents. They either refused to do so, or were afraid to have that catechism answered distinctly.

42. Salary of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. \$2,100 00

43. Contingencies of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery..... \$1,200 00

41. Miscellaneous printing..... \$2,060 00

Mr. LISTER. I would ask the hon. Minister how many copies of the report of the Committee on Interprovincial Trade were printed?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Government can not tell. That is for the officers of the House.

Mr. LISTER. That is another perfectly useless report. Hon. gentlemen sometimes come to this House full of projects. The hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Paint), as soon as he got here, moved for a Committee on Interprovincial Trade. That Committee sat from day to day, and from week to week, and no doubt cost this country a good many thousand dollars. I suppose the report is a second edition of the report of the Committee of my hon. friend from Centre Wellington (Mr. Orton). I would like to know what this report on Interprovincial Trade cost the country.

Mr. PAINT. It was a small report of only 40 or 50 pages, but it contained all the information we could gather in the short time allowed us. I imagine that the cost of it,

including expenses of witnesses and the printing, was not over \$1,000.

Mr. CHARLTON. Can the Chairman of that Committee inform us what have been the results of that report?

Mr. PAINT. The result of it was this: That the Quebec flour merchants assured me that they obtained their flour 13 cents cheaper; that the Grand Trunk Railway had 200 cars of freight for the city of Quebec; and they found that the pressure that Committee brought upon them was to their disadvantage. They attached locomotives to 100 cars of freight and took it to Montreal, and started it by the North Shore Railway; and from that time the Lower Provinces have received their freight during the summer at less rates—25 cents less per barrel of flour. The amount saved the country was about \$75,000.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. member should move the re-appointment of the Committee.

Mr. PAINT. I desire to say that, owing to the opposition offered by the hon. member for West Durham, we were prevented from doing as much good as we might have done.

Mr. CHARLTON. The hon. gentleman has not informed us how the beneficial results were reached.

Mr. PAINT. The freight rate was lowered from Chicago to Halifax.

46. For binding, newspapers, &c..... \$1,600 00

47. For purchase of works on America..... \$1,000 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What was done with the amount, \$1,000, voted last year?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. The hon. gentleman was not here last Session when the leader of the Opposition pointed out the importance of have a special vote of \$1,000 for this service. It was voted last Session, and is continued.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What works were bought with the money?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I do not know. It was placed at the disposal of the Library Committee.

Mr. MILLS. It is very desirable that works relating to America should be obtained, as the Library is very defective in this particular. I should like to ask the First Minister whether any steps are being taken to transfer the Manuscript Department to the Library. I do not say the books should be placed in the Library where they would be exposed to injury and destruction; but it is very inconvenient to have them stored in the basement of the western block. I have had occasion to go there, and hon. members who are anxious to consult those manuscript volumes could do so with greater facility if they were more accessible. I hope steps will be taken to transfer that branch from the Department of Agriculture to the Library, and make it a branch of the Library. I believe Mr. Brymner is a very competent officer, and one who takes great interest in his work, and it is not of advantage to him or to the public that this Department should be placed in a basement, where it is almost inaccessible. There is not sufficient light and accommodation, and those historical records are rendered almost useless to the public, at the present time, on account of the inconvenient position in which they are placed.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think it is inadvisable to place them in the Library. They will be safer elsewhere. In England, the Archives are under the charge of the Master of the Rolls, and are kept in a separate place, entirely distinct from the Library of the British Museum. The hon. gentleman was quite right in stating that our manuscript volumes are not accessible, because there is not sufficient room; but the new building in course of erection, will contain a good library room and fire-proof room, where all