

ber, or probably my education has been neglected.

Mr. BERGERON. Kentville.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes; it did not sound very familiar to me. But, Sir, I am told on very good authority that the only commodity cheaper in Nova Scotia than in Ottawa are apples.

Mr. BENNETT. They are very wholesome.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, and I am told they are cheaper in Nova Scotia than here. But from what we know of Ottawa we know that if a man lives a simple life he can live as cheaply here as in any other part of Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. But he must not learn frivolities.

Mr. DAVIN. Of course I grant you that if he is a man of fashion, it is a very expensive place. It is barely possible that this gentleman may have been under the impression that when he obtained the high position of accountant in the Militia Department, he at once became a man of fashion and would have to incur expenses to keep up the dignity of the position. He may have had false impressions with regard to the social encumbrances of the new office.

Mr. FOSTER. He may possess some accomplishments.

Mr. DAVIN. Now, the Minister says that this man was earning nearly as much salary at Kentville; he refuses to tell us what the discrepancy is. It is a case of 'hiatus valde defendus'—there is a large gap to be spanned. Under these circumstances, we may come to the conclusion that he was not earning anything like \$2,400. But the reason given by the Minister why he could not come in at \$1,800, was the great difference in the cost of living. Well, Sir, a simple man, like myself, can live as cheaply in Ottawa as at Regina or at Kentville; but I am not a fashionable man. There is an article here in the "Journal" which may indicate the streams and rivers of rumour that have gone out from this great capital, this Washington of the North, which the present leader of the Government was to do such great things for. The right hon. gentleman sees visions and dreams dreams when he talks of his achievements in the last twenty months—how he has made Canada a nation, and done many other great things.

Mr. BENNETT. But he could not build the Yukon Railway.

Mr. DAVIN. No, there are limits to the highest capacity. You know what the French judge said to Alexander Dumas before he had achieved his fame.

Mr. WALLACE. I do not wish to interrupt the hon. member for Assinibola, but there are four Ministers sound asleep, and perhaps he had better wake them up.

Mr. DAVIN. I will wake them up shortly; but I am afraid to tell this story about Dumas, with the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) before me, because, in his sublime unconsciousness of the imperfections of the accent with which he speaks his native language, he does not think that my accent is what it ought to be; but it was in Paris that I learned French, and I am sure his accent is what Edmund About would call "un accent déplorable."

Mr. BOURASSA. I do not accept the judgment of the hon. gentleman on this point, as on many other points.

Mr. DAVIN. When Dumas went before a French judge, he was asked what his profession was, and he replied that he was of the same profession as Corneille. The judge said to him: "Ah, il y a des degrés"—there are degrees. And so I say, there are degrees of power; and, although the leader of the Government could do great things, he could not build the Yukon Railway. But here is the extract from the Evening "Journal," which is a paper for which I have the greatest respect:

#### A SOCIAL POINT.

A newspaper outside Ottawa printed recently a report that one of the Cabinet Ministers was taking dancing lessons, and use was made of the report as a text for sneers and smart remarks at the expense of the Minister. Most people will be inclined to consider that sort of journalism a thorough'ly dirty business. If a newspaper in this city were to use a similar rumour in a similar malicious way about some Sparks Street merchant or city lawyer or doctor, there would be no two opinions about the contemptible nature of the publication. In personal matters the fact that a man is politically prominent gives no excuse for assaults on what he has a legitimate private right to do.

As far as dancing is concerned, the man who is liable to be thrown in the way of it and who, not having conscientious objections to it, does not fit himself to do it tolerably well, he is a fool. Any man is a fool who is willing to look like a fool because he can't do commonplace things which people favour into whose society he must come more or less.

And the paper goes on to say that a Cabinet Minister who fits himself by terpsichorean studies for the exigent claims of the society into which he may be thrown, displays wisdom rather than the reverse. I say that, with such articles as that going out from this city, you can easily understand how a candidate for a high position in the Militia Department might think there would be social claims upon him here of a higher kind than there would be at Kentville. Not only would he have to pay a higher price for his apples than he would at Kentville, but he would have to dress better, take dancing lessons, and so forth. I say, that we must in future disabuse the minds of candidates for high positions in the civil service of such an idea. We do not want our civil servants to run away with the idea