

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) While it may be very well open to any member of Parliament to propose a policy, the question we are now discussing is the fact that the groping for a policy which the hon. gentleman has indulged in, has cost this country \$90,000, and we want to know who got the money. The hon. gentleman thought he had a policy some years ago, but he found he had not, and he went groping for one. Now to whom has he paid that \$90,000? This item should not pass until we get that information. The item is before us, and the hon. gentleman ought to have been prepared to give us this information. He tells us where some of the money has gone, but how much has been paid to each of these commissioners? That is the question many people are seeking information upon outside this House.

Mr. FOSTER. Nobody questions the right of my hon. friend to have the information. The statement I made, I think, ought to be reasonably satisfactory; I said that on that item of \$8,000 for finishing up the vote, I did not happen to have the figures with me. I said also that the return had been called for, that the House had passed it, and that it was being prepared, and it would give all the particulars. I think that is reasonable.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Not exactly. Here we are asked for \$8,000 to make up the total of \$90,000. Now, the hon. gentleman knows that when it is the last vote, the custom is to receive full information as to all the disbursements that have gone on, and I think he should have been prepared with details. I am quite sure that when the hon. gentleman's colleagues were on this side, they insisted on every ample information about any similar vote, but I do not think they had any similar vote to discuss.

Mr. FOSTER. We are going to give all the information, of course.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I did not notice that the Minister read the travelling expenses of the commissioners.

Mr. FOSTER. They come in with each commissioner's account.

Mr. McMULLEN. I want to draw the hon. gentleman's attention to a statement made by Sir John Thompson in July, 1894, in replying to the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Paterson.)

Up to the present time the Royal Commission has cost about \$100,000.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That was wrong.

Mr. McMULLEN. That was the statement that was then made. Now, before we finally pass this item, it is but fair that the committee should know what has been paid to the several commissioners. Can it be possible that the Minister of Finance is not in possession of the facts to enable him to answer

that question? If he is not, I think the item should be allowed to stand until he is able to answer the question. He asks now for \$8,000 finally to settle up the matters connected with this commission, but he declines to tell us what each commissioner has received.

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman admitted himself a moment ago that the question was a fair one. He says that this commission is to cost \$90,000, \$10,000 less than was estimated last year, and he asks \$8,000 to complete the whole thing. He admits we should have a detailed statement of the expenditure so far, and we require it in order to see whether the further amount he asks for is justifiable. If he is not ready to give the information at present, I think he will save time by allowing the item to stand.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not want to be unreasonable at all. What is the point at issue? It is simply to determine the amount received by each commissioner, that is all. I have given you the item, \$63,000 to date, and \$8,000 asked for. I have given you what has been spent for printing; I have given you an estimate of what is still required for printing; I have given the cost of the translation, the cost of the reporting, and I have given other items that I have read out. If you take these from the \$63,000, it leaves about \$30,000, which has been expended among the commissioners. Now, we know exactly what the commissioners did get—they got \$30,000. Hon. gentlemen opposite are curious to know what each got, and they have a perfect right to that information. That information is being made up in detail in answer to an address passed by the House, and it will be laid before it. Have I not given the committee all essential information? Is there any reason why the item should stand because I cannot, for the moment, divide the amount paid to the commissioners among the different commissioners?

Mr. LAURIER. Is there anything to be concealed in that?

Mr. FOSTER. No. What is to be concealed? An Order in Council was passed, under which they obtained so much per day and so much for living expenses. It is as plain as can be, and the sum I mentioned was divided among them. What is there to keep back? The hon. gentleman is over-suspicious.

Mr. LAURIER. I do not understand that there is anything to keep back. The hon. gentleman said that it was quite true the information should be given, but he is not ready to give it. When is the proper time that such information should be given if not at this very moment, when the hon. gentleman asks for a further vote.

Mr. FOSTER. If I had the information I should be glad to give it.