

as it purports to be an answer to an Order of the House for copies of all papers and correspondence in connection with the evidence. There are numerous gaps in the correspondence, which it would be well to have supplied. It appears to have been arranged, that this business, at least a portion of it, such as the appointment of the Commissioners and the taking of the principal portion of the evidence, should have been done at Ottawa, and that the headquarters of the Commission should be here; but I see that the printing was arranged to be performed by the Messrs. Stephenson, at Chatham, a very considerable distance from this city. The correspondence indicates, as was obvious, that very great inconvenience resulted from this arrangement, that there were demands for greater accuracy and greater expedition, and that revises had to go by mail, sometimes three, sometimes four, and once, I believe, five times, before the correct result could be obtained. So great was the delay and inconvenience that in the end the Commission were forced to notify Messrs. Stephenson that unless they made arrangements with somebody at Ottawa, to complete the work, the Commission, themselves, would cancel the existing arrangements, and make such others as would enable them to have the work done at Ottawa. Then, at last, the Messrs. Stephenson appear to have made arrangements with persons at Ottawa to complete the work. And with whom? With the Queen's printers, who, by law and custom, ought to have been charged with this work in the first place, so that the practical result was that the bulk of the work was done by the Queen's printers, but that the Messrs. Stephenson were allowed to job or farm out this portion, obtaining the profits which ought to have gone to those who did the work. It was necessary, of course, under these circumstances, that special arrangements should be made as to the prices, and I observe that very large numbers of copies of the report are allowed to be printed at what are called confidential rates, which means that the printers get something like twice as much as the ordinary rates. The printing of the French copy was divided between one newspaper office at Montreal and one at Quebec. On both of these points the correspondence is incomplete; in neither case is the amount paid given. I, therefore, would ask the hon. gentleman to look at the former return and complete it in so far as it is defective, and supplement it up to date.

Motion agreed to.

FRAUDS UPON CUSTOMS.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for copies of all correspondence, not already brought down, with reference to frauds upon the Customs in the export of Canadian wheat or flour in satisfaction of bonds given on the importation of United States wheat or flour; all reports, evidence, and Departmental evidence upon such frauds; statement of the extent thereof; names of the parties concerned, and a statement of the action of the Department thereon, said: Last Session I moved more than once for information with reference to the frauds practiced upon the Customs in connection with the system of grinding in bond, or the importing, for particular purposes, of wheat and flour from the United States, and pointed out, what indeed was obvious, that such a trade was being carried on in these products, and at such prices as rendered it plain there must be some fraudulent practice carried on. The hon. Minister, I believe, issued a Departmental instruction for an enquiry and a vast mass of papers were sent down to us; but while they found out a number of things, they did not find out the one thing of interest to the House and the country, namely, where the frauds were and who was committing them, and what their nature was: and it was said there was nothing wrong. Since that time, the newspapers tell us that certain discoveries have been made, that certain frauds have been committed on the Customs,

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and that these have been going on for a long time, I think they said three years, and that the hon. Minister, having inquired into the matter and taken into consideration the report of some officer on the subject, has dealt with some one or more of the firms concerned, in reference to such particular frauds as they were still amenable to the law for, viz.: those which have taken place during the preceding twelve months. I desire to have information on such subjects, not merely with reference to the period referred to, but with reference to all the discoveries of the Government as to frauds committed even at an earlier date.

Mr. BOWELL, The hon. gentleman would leave the impression on the House that no enquiry was made into what, he termed, the frauds or the revenue at all, until after his motion was made in this House. Such is not the fact. When the hon. gentleman made the motion, I informed the House that full enquiry had been made into what he termed frauds. I did not state at that time, as the hon. gentleman says, that no wrong had been committed. On the contrary, I said that irregularities had existed in different parts of the Dominion, both in the West and in the East, but that the importers of the wheat, whose attention had been called to these irregularities, at once paid the duties which they should have paid, and that it was settled. The papers to which the hon. gentleman refers will be laid before the House, and it will be seen that, in the cases discovered since, the Department have been just as vigilant as they were previously, and that the action taken by the Government established not only that the amount of duty which should be paid would be collected, but that the heaviest fine should be imposed in addition.

Mr. BLAKE, There is a difference between irregularities and frauds. It is quite true the hon. gentleman said something about irregularities. I enquired, however, not about irregularities which were acknowledged and the proper duties paid, and which were found to be of a very limited amount, but of frauds—designed and deliberate frauds. It was about such designed and deliberate frauds of which the hon. gentleman has since discovered a part, and perhaps a part only.

Mr. BOWELL. Very likely.

Mr. BLAKE. And very likely a part only of these frauds which really were designed to cheat the revenue, and to produce an unfair state of things as between the fair trader and those in use of these fraudulent means. This, it was, I was anxious to obtain last Session and I am desirous of obtaining now.

CANADIAN EXTRADITION ACT.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for copies of all correspondence not already brought down, touching the Canadian Extradition Act, and the Suspension of the Imperial Act within Canada, and of any Imperial or Canadian Orders in Council or Proclamation on the subject, said: It is now six years ago since this House and the Senate unanimously agreed in an address praying that the Imperial Act be suspended in the Dominion of Canada, in order that the Act passed in the Session to which I refer might have operation. Ever since we have been endeavoring to obtain action on that address, and the newspapers tell us there has been an Imperial Proclamation lately, but I have not noticed in the official papers of this country any reference to such proclamation. A considerable interest exists upon the subject of what the state of the law now is. Upon the proclamation issuing, of course the new Act will come into force. It is extremely important we should learn what is the condition of things on this question of our relations with the neighboring Republic.