

over these railway stories. The hon member for Cumberland has thought proper to make this assault upon Mr McCully a pretty personal one. There is one charge against which I fear I cannot defend him. He has had the misfortune to have been born and bred in the same country village as the Dr. Two old women, in a narrow street, will scold at each other every day. If they lived in a crowded thoroughfare, they would not make themselves ridiculous. Two bantam cocks, when shut up in a pit, will tear each other's eyes out; but when permitted to roam at large over the open country, each crows in peace on his own dunghill.—(Laughter.)

The member for Cumberland (Dr T) rarely rises in his place without commencing an attack upon Mr McCully, while, if I am rightly informed, that hon gentleman in his place, in the other house, pursues a much more dignified course. In Prince Edward Island, before the new Province House was built, the two chambers were divided only by a partition, in which there was a very convenient knot hole. Whenever a member of one house said any thing defamatory of a member of the other, the man assaulted could put his mouth to the hole and retort, "that's a lie." (Laughter.) I will not recommend a similar arrangement here, but I think it would save a good deal of time and trouble, if we had a gutta percha tube between this house and the Council Chamber, so that the hon gentlemen might fight it out between themselves.

But why is it that Mr McCully has been thus abused and villified? Simply because he has had the moral courage to make a saving in a great public work of £4,500 a year. It required no little nerve and courage to do this; for nothing is so painful as to be obliged to cut down existing salaries. Mr McCully, I consider, by the course he has taken, has conferred lasting obligations on the people of this province, as well as distinction on himself. Are we, then, by passing this resolution, to punish him for doing what every rational man in the country will approve? When I was Chairman of the Railway Board, I received £700 a year—with four co-Commissioners, at the cost of another £1000 a year. The Board, under Mr McNab's management, cost £1100 a year, and, besides this, he had the assistance of Mr Laurie, and Mr Forman, and Mr Moose—Mr McCully is discharging all those duties without either commissioners or chief engineer. Without disparaging the valuable assistance I received from my commissioners, I believe that the road can be managed without any. If anything goes wrong, we have one man responsible, and we know who to blame. This is a question, however, for the house entirely, and if the house decide that it would be better to have commissioners, Mr Anderson and I can have our names put into a commission, costing the province nothing; although, even then, I should be inclined to leave the management largely to Mr McCully.

Let the house consider for a moment the

extent of this saving of £4,500 a year. It is the interest of £70,000. In 1849, the whole revenue was only £70,000; so that Mr McCully saves an amount equal to the interest of the revenue for that year, and equal to one-half the whole legislative expenses. And we are called upon by this resolution to pass a vote of censure upon him, and, in return for his labors, to reduce his own salary!

But we are told that we cannot get good men at these reduced rates; this is not true. The other day some one went round the works with a paper endeavoring to get the employees to strike; only one was foolish enough to do it, and he came back to find his own situation vacant. I have in my office now a large pile of applications for situations, and whenever it is necessary, places can be supplied without increasing the salaries. I have been looking into some other branches of the public service lately, where Mr McCully's spirit of retrenchment is much required. Take the Revenue Department in this city; I find that there are 40 officers employed in this port, of whom seven or eight have been appointed during the last two years. And yet there is more open smuggling carried on in Halifax than in any other part of the province. Before long I hope to apply the pruning knife to this department also, or at all events to infuse into it some new life and animation.

I cast my eye over the Lunatic Asylum accounts the other day, and to my utter astonishment, I found that some £5000 or £6,000 has been expended in that establishment during the last year; and that the accounts, till I enquired for them, had never been sent to any Provincial office to be audited. I wish some McCully would examine into the affairs of this institution, and I am much mistaken if he does detect gross extravagance in its management, and find, what ought never to be permitted in any such institution, that some at least of the commissioners occasionally make purchases from themselves.

The hon member for Cumberland often makes heavy charges against me; the other night he charged me with putting down debate, when all that I did was to sit for six or seven dreary hours, listening patiently to every body who had anything to say. Sometimes the members of the government are accused of "violating the principles of justice," then we are reminded how we "shrink" and "quail" before the Doctor, of whom we really are quite unconscious of ever being afraid.—Speaking of what occurred at Windsor, he accused me of hiring bullies to put him down, and modestly informed the house, that I was not "fit to cope with a boy, let alone a man." Then he tells me, every few days, that I have bought three counties, and can only get a seat for Windsor, corrupted by the railway expenditure.

If the learned gentleman is to be credited, we are always committing some "outrage"—are "imbeciles," and no "statesmen," "occupying positions which we degrade." Now, Mr Speaker, does it ever occur to the learned gentleman, that by applying such language to men who are at least his equals,