

office hours. If the Clerk of the House of Commons prepares a work on constitutional practice, we pay him. If our Librarian writes a good book on constitutional history, we do not say to him: You ought not to have done it and you will get nothing, for you must have stolen your time to write. If the late Fennings Taylor wrote a book on constitutional law, whether we were a Parliament or a Legislature, he should not have got any consideration. Sir Erskine May, Clerk of the House of Commons, was stealing his time when he wrote his valuable books. Mr. Alfred Todd, who is now no more, the brother of our Librarian and the Clerk of Private Bills, compiled two magnificent indexes of all the Journals of the old Province of Upper Canada and the Provinces of United Canada, a very valuable volume without which you cannot thread the maze of the Journals of the Province, should not have been paid for his work. Mr. Hartney, in the same way, a very valuable officer, lost his time when he prepared his work on Private Bills. The hon. gentleman's theory is absurd on the face of it. Mr. Dionne did the work without being asked to do it, and without being under any obligation to do it. Being fond of statistics it was a labor of love for him, and for years he kept his record from day to day and from year to year. We have no right to steal his brains or his work, and I have no doubt he performed his work faithfully, thoroughly and honestly, during his office hours. But this book is his own and not ours, and if we want it we must pay him for it. But if we do want to get this valuable book concerning all the public expenditure on all the public works in united Canada since Confederation, how are we to get it? We cannot steal it; we cannot force him to give it to us. We cannot threaten to stop his salary, but we must pay him for it. There cannot be a more valuable book prepared than a classified analysis of all expenditure on all public works of Canada since 1867.

Mr. CASGRAIN. The book has only seven pages.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman has no idea of the amount of labor required to produce this result. It is very easy to write down four or five figures in a line, but sometimes it requires an enormous amount of labor to ascertain what figures to write down. This gentleman worked hard and well, and performed his work with great accuracy. The hon. gentleman knows that during the last two years we wanted this book for the Public Accounts, and could not get it.

Mr. ROSS. I hope the hon. gentleman will not leave the House under the impression that seven pages from the Public Accounts constitute a book. I would like to say in reply to the hon. First Minister, since he has mentioned the names of some of the officers, are we to understand that they are not to be paid for the services they render? Take one clerk for instance. I believe, there was a vote of \$1,500 for purchasing a very valuable work which he has prepared. I do not know that that gentleman has been paid \$1,500; I think that money has been expended to supply hon. members of this House with that valuable work. The same with Mr. Todd the Librarian. I remember seeing the sum in the Estimates for a certain number of copies of his work, but I have no recollection that he received any of the money personally.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. What about Mr. Bowles?

Mr. ROSS. That is another case. Mr. Bowles profited by that. That matter was discussed in the Printing Committee, I think, and I agreed with that vote myself, because I could not see any other way of getting that service rendered. Mr. Bowles had charge of the Index of the Sessional Papers, and of the Votes and Proceedings, from day to day, and he had peculiar facilities for the discharge of that duty. There was no other man, in the House or out of it, that was as competent as Mr. Bowles to do that work.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD,

Mr. BOWELL. The Librarian had formerly been paid for the same work, but when Mr. Bowles presented his book to the Printing Committee, though it was much smaller, the hon. gentleman thought that he was entitled to the amount.

Mr. ROSS. I believe Mr. Bowles prepared the book at the suggestion of the Committee, and I was one of the Committee who made the suggestion. But, after all, the officers named by the hon. Minister of the Interior are not officers whose time is engrossed the whole year in the performance of their official duties, but only during the sitting of the House.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. You are much mistaken. Ask the Clerk, and see what he will say.

Mr. ROSS. I know what his main duties are during the Session; the balance of the year his duties are comparatively light. I am sure, as a member of this House, I am delighted to know we have an officer who is capable of preparing a book that commands the commendation of the House.

Mr. LANDRY (Translation). Mr. Chairman: I have only a few words to add in reply to the remarks of the hon. member for L'Islet. I must, first of all, express my surprise that the work which has been prepared by one of our fellow subjects should receive any opposition in this House, and that this opposition should come from the hon. member from L'Islet. It is true that the hon. member, at this moment, sees all kinds of phantoms. Not long since he raised his voice relative to another gentleman, who, if I may use a popular expression, gave him something to attend to in his own county. To day he desires to attack Mr. Dionne. Mr. Dionne had some leisure, and I do not think he could have employed it better than in opposing the hon. member from L'Islet. There is no reason why the hon. member should seize this occasion to declare war without reason against one who produced so praiseworthy a work as the one in question. When one wants to be considered the first in Israel, I think he should display much broader views, and not walk in the mist of personalities.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation). I am not aware whether my hon. friend refers to a certain gentleman named Hébert; if he speaks of him I am in a position to inform him that I have just received a telegraphic despatch informing me that this Mr. Hébert has been fined \$200 for the little affair in which he took so much interest a short time ago.

Mr. LANDRY (Translation). For the information of the hon. member from L'Islet, I may inform him that I received a despatch saying the decision has been appealed from.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation). It cannot be appealed.

Mr. LANDRY (Translation). The hon. member ought to know that the same Judge recently ordered a Mr. McKenzie, of Bellechasse, to pay a fine of \$200; and that the case having been appealed the judgment was reversed. If the hon. member says the case cannot be appealed not only he is not a good member but he is not even a good lawyer.

284. Miscellaneous—Surveys and inspections..... \$5,000.00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This is because the vote last Session was not large enough. I might have said that this vote was for new works, or for unforeseen works; but that is not the case.

287. Fish ries—To provide for payments for extra services to officers of the Marine and Fisheries Department, and for printing and other expenses in procuring information and making payments in connection with the Act granting bounties to fishermen..... \$3,000.00

Mr. McISAAC. Perhaps the hon. acting Minister will explain this vote.