

what the number of copies was which were sent to each member? Some appeared to have forty or fifty, while some had none.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Secretary of State has nothing in the world to do with it. It is not a Government paper, it is not a Government issue, it is not authorized by the Government. It is a matter of Parliamentary guidance or rule, altogether.

Mr. FAIRBANK. Who sends them out?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think the hon. gentleman should make an enquiry from the officers of the House to know why the usual number of copies which each member has a right to get was not sent to him.

Mr. FAIRBANK. That is what I enquired—what is the usual number of copies?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Each member has a right to the same number of copies as every other member.

Mr. ALLEN. As to supplying Mechanics' Institutes with Blue Books or other Parliamentary documents, I think no establishments in the country deserve them more. They are a reading people, and an intelligent people, and a tax-paying people, and I hope the Government will take it into consideration to supply the Mechanics' Institutes as well as libraries with Blue Books and other Parliamentary documents.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The main object to this, I presume, is to be found in the immense amount of money which has been expended in it, and the manner in which the report is got up. Hon. gentlemen who are conversant with it, know that a series of questions were sent out to different parties in different counties, and I presume the members then representing those counties were asked to name the people to whom they should be sent.

Mr. KIRK. I was not.

Mr. PATERSON. I think I was.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). The member for Guysboro' (Mr. Kirk) was not in the House.

Mr. KIRK. I was not only in the House, but I was a member of the Committee.

Mr. PATERSON. There are some four hundred pages here, with answers that the parties named sent to the questions, and they are perfectly conflicting. There is where they become utterly valueless. You will take up a page and read the answers of one man, and they will be diametrically opposed to the opinions of another man.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is the value of the evidence.

Mr. PATERSON. No; it is not the value of the evidence. Let me read you the testimony of one gentleman here. He says, in answer to question No. 1—I need not read the questions, for I presume the Chairman knows what they are:

"If we can buy an article free from duty, we can buy it far cheaper."

In answer to the second question, he says:

"Since the National Policy is in force, he cannot buy corn—not to make it pay. There are very few that is raised in our market."

This is his answer to the third question:

"Our market is ruled by the Liverpool market; the National Policy cannot rule our market."

To the fourth, he says:

"Since the duty is on, we get less for our hogs."

In answer to the fifth question, he says:

"We cannot raise horses, to pay, for the home market."

To the sixth:

"It will pay to breed horses when there is a good demand in some other country, and the United States has been our best market."

Mr. FAIRBANK.

This is his answer to the seventh question:

"It would pay well to buy corn, if we could buy it without paying duty."

In answer to the eighth, he says:

"The National Policy did not make it any better."

To the ninth:

"Free Trade would be very good."

To the tenth:

"Wool has been low ever since the National Policy."

To the eleventh:

"Hardly any raised in our part for market."

To the twelfth:

"It is increased, for the farmers have to pay the duty on implements."

That was the question whether the price had been increased for implements. His answer to the thirteenth question is:

"We must pay more for cotton since the National Policy is in force." Now, the Finance Minister will admit that this is an answer which should not go to the country, because it contradicts his statement.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Yes; there are other answers which put him right.

Mr. PATERSON. He says, in answer to the fourteenth question:

"It has not increased; it has given no encouragement to any class; it has not retarded emigration to the United States, or encouraged Canadians to return to this country."

In reply to the sixteenth, he says:

"Farm land has decreased, for most everybody wants to sell."

The idea of hon. gentlemen opposite helping in such an unpatriotic work as sending this through the country. His answer to the seventeenth question is:

"The labouring class has not improved, for everything they buy is dearer."

To the eighteenth:

"Reasonable Tariff, Free Trade, less money wasted, and less humbug."

Under "General Remarks," he says:

"I did not answer the questions as plain as I should have done, but I hope you know the meaning of it."

An hon. MEMBER. What riding is he from?

Mr. PATERSON. From a very good riding.

An hon. MEMBER. South Brant?

Mr. PATERSON. He is not from Brant. My hon. friend has made a wrong guess. He is wrong this time, as he has been many a time before. He is not from Brant, but he is from a very good county. On the other hand, I could read answers the very opposite of that. I say there is no sense in expending such a vast amount of money in printing 400 pages of directly conflicting testimony. If it was to be of any value at all, it might have been done in this way: that the answers received should have been assorted, and it could have been done in a brief statement of three or four pages instead of 400 or 500 pages. It might have been stated that, out of 600, or 700, or 1,000, or whatever number of answers were received, we find a certain number give testimony in this direction, and a certain other number give testimony in that direction. Then you would have had a summing up, and you would have saved all this money that has been wasted in the printing of this evidence, and would have prevented the thing from being turned into—I might use the expression—almost a farce, as it is, reading one gentleman's statement and, immediately after, the statement of another who gives it an emphatic contradiction. There is where I consider there has been a great waste of money in the publishing of this document. It might all have been avoided by assorting the answers. They would have come under three