

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). How many commissioners were there, and at what rate were they paid?

Mr. FOSTER. There were five, and they were paid \$10 per day.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) What proportion of the \$8,000 is to be paid to each of them?

Mr. FOSTER. I think this \$8,000 is to pay some balances due to the commissioners, also clerical assistance, travelling expenses and reporting.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. What amount was paid for translation?

Mr. FOSTER. \$3,000.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. To whom?

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Montpetit.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. Was there a contract?

Mr. FOSTER. The regular rates were paid to him, as recommended by the Queen's Printer.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. Was not the contract broken?

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think so. Mr. Monpetit is not being employed at the present time.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. I saw some letters in the press complaining that the Government had broken their contract.

Mr. FOSTER. I have no doubt that he was complaining.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. Was there anything in his complaint?

Mr. FOSTER. I did not see the complaint.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. He complained that the Government were not willing to pay for his work, and had taken away his contract.

Mr. FOSTER. The Government, when they had all the work they wanted from him paid what was due him. That is all.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Was any money paid to Mr. Kribbs, or Mr. Spence, for gathering the evidence?

Mr. FOSTER. There was not.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. Minister of Justice referred us to the Auditor General's Report, page C-26. But that does not give the information my hon. friend asked for at all. What was asked for was the amount paid each of the commissioners?

Mr. FOSTER. To get that it would be necessary to add the payments for the two years during which these payments had been running.

Mr. FRASER. This is the last time the House will be called upon to vote any sum for this commission, I understand?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon gentleman is anxious to give another vote—

Mr. FRASER. Not in the least. I do not think I would stand very well in my county if I recommended more expenditure for this commission; enough has been thrown away already. But if this is the last vote to be given for this commission, I think it would be well that the expenditure under each of these heads should be given definitely.

Mr. FOSTER. A vote has passed the House for a return covering all this information, which return will be ready in a day or two.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think it is very doubtful that it will be ready in a day or two. We have had a good many returns ordered by the House that have not yet been brought down.

Mr. FRASER. There will be some difficulty when this item is passed in getting back to this important subject. I do not know whether the Finance Minister was trying to restrain his laughter when he was giving his answers, or whether he was trying to hasten through this as a disagreeable subject. But when he spoke of "sundries" he could hardly help laughing outright. I think this subject should be gone into.

Mr. FOSTER. But this is scarcely the time.

Mr. FRASER. Then I wonder when the time will come.

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman has a policy he would like to set forth, he might bring forward a motion. If my hon. friends opposite have a policy that they would like to be sharply defined before the House, I will be very glad to hear it.

Mr. FRASER. We have a policy, but if we were to attempt to present it, we would be met by the statement that there is no item before the House. I do not say that all commissions are frauds, but I do say that the time spent to get that information has been wasted. Mr. Kribbs was worth all the commission put together, because he issued his work some six months ago, in which he gave the results of the inquiry to the men engaged in the traffic which he represented. I cannot see why this report was delayed so long, when Mr. Kribbs, who had no better opportunity than the commissioners, was able to make his report six months ago. In looking at these volumes, I think the reference made by the hon. member for Bothwell is very appropriate. I think if Lord Macaulay had those volumes before him, he would never have complained of Dr. Nairn's book as he did. These huge volumes contain the most trifling things, everything that any man wanted to say before that commission is presented in those volumes for the information of Parliament.