

Mr. MILLS. In that volume one party was reported as engaged in the business of hardware whose business was the filing of saws.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That was hardware.

Mr. MILLS. It was rather an extraordinary thing, that an old fellow who would get 10 cents for sharpening a buck-saw should be put down as one of the manufacturers of the country, engaged in one of the industries established by the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Committee rose and reported progress.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 1:20 a.m., Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 10th July, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at half-past One o'clock.

PRAYERS.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved,

That when the House adjourns this day, it stand adjourned until tomorrow, Saturday, at 1.30 o'clock p.m., and that Government business have precedence.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. BLAKE. Before the Orders are called, I ask the indulgence of the House for one moment, with reference to a personal question. I this morning found some portions of the correspondence which the right hon. leader of the Government thought fit to refer to the other day, and I will present it to the House. I dare say the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Small) and the right hon. gentleman will be glad to get it, as I observed by one of the papers that they are anxious to have it. On the 7th of May I received this letter:

"55 ELIZABETH STREET,

"TORONTO, 6th May, 1885.

"To Hon. Mr. BLAKE, Ottawa.

"SIR,—The undersigned is just down from South Branch, Prince Albert settlement; have been farming in that neighborhood for five years. Been in the N.-W. for 14 years; on surveys 7 years. I would very much like to interview you on matters concerning the Government agents in the N.-W. T., and the half-breeds' villainies practised on C. P. R. surveys, wilful waste of both provisions and cash by J. A., C. E. I have been interviewed by reporters of papers here, but intend keeping my own counsel until I have been at headquarters. I am a ruined, hard-working farmer; have no funds, or would go straight to Ottawa. If you will send me a pass I will go and see you with my Indian, I have here as witness. He is a Sioux that I adopted when a small boy. Now he is a fine young man and a good specimen for the Government to look upon and treat accordingly. There would be no trouble in the west if my intended advice is noted down. Trusting you will kindly comply with my request, beg to remain, Sir, your humble servant,

"J. E. BROWN."

To which I replied—as I presume the right hon. gentleman obtained the original of my letter, and read it correctly; I read from his own statement:

"OTTAWA, 7th May.

"I have your letter of the 6th, and should be very glad indeed to learn from you any facts connected with the management of affairs in the Mr. WILSON.

North-West Territories. I would willingly comply with your request for a pass to Ottawa if it were in my power, but I have no means of procuring railway passes. It is possible, though by no means certain, I may be in Toronto for a few hours within the next few days, and if so I would try to arrange an interview with you, or if I am unable to manage that, I can arrange an interview with a confidential friend of mine, who would note down, for my own ear only, all you should choose to communicate, if this would be agreeable to you.

"Yours faithfully,

"EDWARD BLAKE."

To which I received this answer:

"55 ELIZABETH STREET, 5 a.m.

"To ED. BLAKE, Esq.,

"SIR,—In reply to yours just to hand, your friend can drop a line stating time and place. I will give him a few pointers that will bear weight with them. I think I stated to you in my last that I had to leave my home on the South Saskatchewan, Prince Albert, and after 17 days in snowshoes across the Birch Hills, lakes and plains, arrived at Troy, with just enough to pay our fares to Toronto, which was \$56.75, and am now here with no funds, not even a dollar to pay our board. C. F. Miles, D.L.S., invited me up to Dr. Johnson, on Bloor street, to-day, and gave me a recommendation to a Mr. H. B. Proudfoot, D. and P. land surveyor, Clinton, also to George Rainball, D. and P. land surveyor, of Pembroke, that are going out on surveys soon. Now, you will observe, if my name appears at once in any of those charges I shall not get a position on any surveys for a long time to come. So I hope, for my sake, you will not mention my name. They can easily investigate and find out what I state to be correct. If you can put in a word for me and my boy to any surveyor that is going out, I shall be most thankful. Trusting we shall soon have a change of Government for the sake of the whole of Canada, beg to remain, obediently yours,

"BROWN."

To which I replied:

"OTTAWA, 12th May, 1885.

"DEAR SIR,—I have your letter, and will ask a friend to make an appointment with you. I will take care, as you desire, that your name shall not be used to your prejudice. I will not disclose it until you have had ample opportunity of securing an appointment for the surveys this year, if you are fortunate enough to do so. But I fancy there will not be a great deal of surveying done. I should gladly assist you in procuring employment if it were in my power, but I have no means of forwarding your interests in this respect. With thanks for your good wishes,

"I am, yours faithfully,

"EDWARD BLAKE."

I requested a friend of mine to communicate with a friend in Toronto, asking him to seek an interview with Mr. Brown, and my friend received from the friend in Toronto this letter, of which I read all the parts that bear on this matter:

"TORONTO, 23rd May, 1885.

"MY DEAR —, I have had Brown looked up and have seen him twice to-day, and have come to the conclusion that he is trying what he can make out of either side and making the most of it. He has been to see Sir John and claims that he has agreed to appoint him a Government detective at \$1,200 a year to drive around the North-West, be provided with horse and conveyance, and so on. He says he is now waiting for a telegram from Ottawa—that he is to have money to pay his expenses to Elkhorn. He showed me a letter he had from Small, saying he had sent him a copy of the Homestead Act, and asking him if he had copies of the letters he sent to Mr. Blake he would like to see them. He says he has not sent copies. I had a friend with me at each of the interviews. I am inclined to think his Indian is the same as has been on exhibition in a King street window for a month, and offered to be leased out for show purposes. He says he wants to sell his information to either party who will pay him, and tells me his cash price to our side is \$1,200; on the payment, his lawyer will hand over the roll. He had been indulging, looks hard, and is evidently a tough citizen. I judge he has been fairly educated, has good ability, with a considerable amount of cunning. If I learn anything of the consequence, I will let you know."

Then, after referring to a political matter:

"At this point I got interrupted, and I have not had time to sit down and write letters or anything else. Brown did not turn up on Monday night; considering it was a holiday, I did not think it likely he would be in condition to make an appearance; but he has not put in an appearance since. I think he sees there is little prospect of money, and my opinion, as well as that of those who have seen him, is that he is a dead beat."

I will only say to the hon. member for East Toronto that the shortest way is the best, and if he wanted to see Brown's letters, and had asked me for them, I would have been happy to have given them.