

Dominion. If abuses existed they should be investigated and remedied. It was a fallacious argument to advance in support of the increase of salaries, to say that it was due to the increase of revenue. Merchants could do a business yielding a profit of \$500,000 on the same staff as one giving \$250,000. It made no difference to a collector whether he collected a duty of twenty per cent., or fifteen per cent. There was no additional calculation or labor through the unjust and unnecessary tax levied by the Finance Minister. He (Mr. MITCHELL) was not one of those who objected to the increase of salaries; he merely objected to the justification which was taken.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE reminded the hon. member that under the Civil Service Act, when the revenue of certain ports reached a certain magnitude, the collectors were entitled to increased salaries. That had taken place in a number of instances. He had mislaid a statement which had been prepared showing these increases, and also where salaries were paid to officers far in advance of what the Civil Service Act allowed. They had been established by the late Government, and the present administration thought it was not advisable to reduce them. Among these were the ports of Lindsay and Collingwood. The collector at Lindsay received \$1,000 a year, and the collector at Collingwood \$1,200, though the revenue did not amount to \$5,000 at either place, and they were not entitled to such salaries. The Government could not in every case decide upon the amount of salary by the mere collections, because, in some ports where they were comparatively small, the business done at the Customs Houses through shipping was very large, and imposed a certain amount of work that was to be considered when the question of salary was taken into account. The general complaint the other day was that the salaries were too small and should be increased. He was not aware of a single case where a salary had been increased without giving due weight to every circumstance connected with it. If the Government had erred, it was in the interests of the public and not of the service.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said this was an intelligent reason, and he repeated that he did not object to the increase of salar-

ies, but to the reasons given by the Finance Minister for it.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT thought the House would understand that if duties were increased there would be greater inducements for evading them, and, consequently, an increased amount of vigilance would be necessary to collect the revenue.

Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the principle on which salaries were based was this—wages should be commensurate with the labor performed, whether the port was large or small. With Collectors a different rule prevailed. He could understand the difficulties of the Government. They were not long in office and they were suffering from a swarm of new flies. The old ones were satisfied, but the new ones were very troublesome to the Premier who, it must be admitted was fighting them manfully, and trying to brush them away. If the hon. gentleman would make a candid confession, he would say that the administration of the affairs of the Dominion was less embarrassing than the swarm of flies which were constantly putting their stings into him. He (Sir JOHN) had a good deal of sympathy for the hon. gentleman, and when he saw him err in that way, could understand the pressure that was brought to bear on him. With regard to the outside service, the principal objection he had was that in some places—Kingston for instance—new men in subordinate offices were given positions over the heads of officials who had been longer in the service. With regard to the head officers, the Government must have a great deal of latitude in making appointments, but with subordinates this principle should be rigidly maintained, and there should be no preference shown to new men. It chilled the hearts of young men in the service to see new men promoted over their heads, and it destroyed their usefulness. In discussing the Civil Service Act it was the general feeling that the English system should be followed—that an officer when appointed should not be considered anchored, but promoted from a smaller to a larger port. The late Government though they tried to adopt this system were not successful because of the intense localism which prevailed, young men preferring often to remain where they were settled to moving to another port where the salary might be