

duty. Now, one word about the surgeon general. All I can say is that that gentleman rendered invaluable services to the country. I do not know whether he prepared himself for the important duties which he performed, but I can inform the House that Dr. Boyd, who was sent out by the Princess Louise, to look after the hospital stores which she sent out to the North-West, stated that during his vast experience during the several campaigns he had passed through, he had never seen any hospital or medical service more perfectly organised than the one which was organised by the surgeon general. I certainly consider that for these services which he rendered, sitting up night after night, and working from early morning until night, he was entitled to the pay which we gave him.

Mr. BLAKE. The point is this: That Lieutenant Colonel Bergin occupied a relation to this House and the country of such a character as did not justify the Department in selecting him for this appointment, when scores of men all through the country, quite as competent to discharge those duties, did not occupy such a relation. I consider it is a direct interference with, and an evasion, if it be not a breach, of the Independence of Parliament Act. I do not depreciate nor discount his services in any way, yet I consider that the Government were not justified, under all the circumstances, in conferring this appointment upon him.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex). I wish to deny the charge of the hon. gentleman that I objected to the rations that were issued to the force. My objection was altogether to the effect that the country had paid a great sum for rations that the force did not get. I wish the committee to recollect that I am dealing largely with the report of the Commission appointed by hon. gentlemen to examine into the accounts in connection with the rebellion, and in dealing with the claim of Major Bell the report says:

"It is admitted W. E. Jones, chief clerk of transport under Bell, went to Saskatchewan Landing, and shipped about ninety tons for Battleford. Bell swears this was to protect the Government, and to prevent a stoppage in the forwarding of supplies, pending the acceptance of tenders for freighting, by the tonnage system. Jones swears he went there and engaged the teams at \$70 per ton, expecting he was to have the contract, which Bell had promised to get for him if possible in recognition of his services as clerk, and there is no reason to doubt Bell knew the stores could be hauled for \$70 per ton as arranged by Jones, when he offered the contract to Thomas Howard at \$125 per ton, less \$10 for feed for teams."

The Commission, after making that statement, submits the following as its finding:—

"The telegrams and correspondence (Exhibits A to R, John Stewart's evidence), particularly a note written by Bell at Moose Jaw, 27th May, addressed to 'My Dear Stewart,' in which he says he 'has quite cleared himself with the general, and laid a foundation for a good thing,' shows Bell was trying to manipulate the various contracts for his own benefit."

Such is the evidence on which I base the charge that this man employed by the Department was using his position to benefit himself under the name of W. R. Bell, Bell & Lewis, and the Qu'Appelle Farming Company. As to the major general's accounts, I have taken the published statements submitted by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Militia. At page 465 of the Auditor General's report there is charged for mess supplies for General Middleton, \$396. I am bound to take those published statements. As to the defence of the transaction made by the member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) that the general never received any supplies, I ask then where they have gone? If General Middleton did not receive them he owes it to the House and to the country to demand an investigation.

Mr. O'BRIEN. If I send a requisition for certain stores for the use of my regiment, that requisition will appear in my name. No doubt the General sent requisitions for stores for the hospital, and they appear in his name and were charged against him.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex). There is a separate account for hospital supplies on which there was a very large expenditure, which is likewise open to criticism.

St. Catharines Milling Company—Law costs.... \$11,500 00

Mr. LISTER. This is a somewhat peculiar item. It seems strange that this Government should undertake to pay the costs of the St. Catharines Milling Company in defending a suit brought by the Ontario Government against the company for trespassing on the Government's lands. Many years ago an award was made between Ontario and the Dominion by which the territory known as the disputed territory was awarded to Ontario. The First Minister of this Government refused to confirm that award. He treated that award as a nullity and the land as if it belonged to the Dominion. It has been stated over and over again and never contradicted, because it cannot be contradicted, that the land in the disputed territory has been portioned out by this Government to its followers—thousands and thousands of miles of Ontario land have been given to the political followers of the hon. gentlemen opposite. Among those gentlemen are the St. Catharines Milling Company, comprising a relative of the Minister of the Interior and other gentlemen who support this Government. When Ontario attempted to enforce its rights, to prevent those trespassers committing further trespasses and keep them from taking away the timber, the Dominion Government stepped in and assumed the responsibility of the costs incurred by these parties in defending that suit. The Dominion Government not only refused to give the Province what belonged to her, but when she began to assert her rights, the Dominion Government undertook to pay the costs in defending trespassers. The return brought down is a somewhat peculiar one. The member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) is a member of the firm that is defending this suit, and the return shows that that gentlemen, through his firm, has had correspondence with the Government, and what influence has been brought to bear on the Government to lead them to undertake the liability of defending the suit is more than I can understand. All the letters which have passed between the Government and this legal firm and the St. Catharines Milling Company have not been brought down, and it is evident there are other letters which are of importance. The Department of Indian Affairs requested this legal firm of which the hon. member for North Simcoe is a member, and that hon. gentleman is the counsel who has argued this case in the courts of Ontario and proposes to argue it in the courts of England, to send in an estimate of the amount required to carry on this litigation. We find by the return that they have submitted an estimate of costs amounting to \$20,000. They ask the Parliament of Canada to vote them \$20,000 of the people's money for the purpose of defending the St. Catharines Milling Company for the trespasses which they have committed on the lands of the Province of Ontario, and the House and country will be struck by the liberality with which those gentlemen propose to pay themselves out of the public Treasury. This Bill is headed, "The Queen against St. Catharines Milling Company—Estimated costs." Costs already incurred, \$3,500. Those were the costs up to the Court of Appeal of Ontario. In the court of first resort, judgment was given against hon. gentlemen here. The Privy Council of England has decided that the land belongs to the Province of Ontario. The First Minister has carried out the threat he made in 1879, the threat that although the land might belong to Ontario yet not a stick of timber or a pound of lead should she have. It is now proposed to take the case to the Supreme Court of Canada. It has been in the Court of Chancery, in the Court of Appeal, and their judgment has been given in favor of the Province; and these lawyers, who propose to pay themselves with such prodigality and liberality, propose now to