

large number of important claims connected with the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, and while so engaged he suddenly died. He died on his way from Toronto to the seat of his duties here, and I regret to say that, being cut off very suddenly, in the prime of life, he left his family quite unprovided for. Under those circumstances, we thought we might properly ask for a grant of six months' salary for the benefit of his family.

Mr. TROW. How long was he in the employ of the Government?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Not very long, but he was in the employ of the Government at the time of his death.

Mr. BLAKE. We all regret the sudden death of Mr. Frank Shanly, and if this matter is to be disposed of mainly as a matter of sentiment, not a word would be said. But Mr. Shanly was City Engineer of Toronto, with a salary of \$3,000 a year when the hon. Minister transferred him to the service of the Government at a salary of \$6,500, and his son was his private secretary for a portion of the time, and drew an additional salary. Now, I can understand no principle on which, in that respect, a gentleman who was transferred from a salary of \$3,000 to \$6,500 and who filled the position for two or three years, we should be called upon to disburse the public funds to the extent of \$3,250 as a gratuity. I do not know whether the usual two months' allowance considered proper in such cases, was payable to the family.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It has not been paid.

Mr. BLAKE. I suppose, because he was not considered to come within the regular Civil Service, if this case is not thought to come within that provision, it is *a fortiori* that does not come within a six months' allowance of this kind. The precedent which the hon. gentleman is setting seems to me to be attended with the greatest inconvenience. Here is an officer who received a very large salary, and it is proposed in this particular case to pay six months' salary to the family. We have been losing officers by death at the rate, perhaps, of fifty or sixty a year in the Civil Service; and we have been giving to those entitled to it under these rules the two months' allowance. We have not heretofore departed from this rule. On what principle should we depart from it now in the case of an officer whose salary was \$6,500, and not depart from it in the cases of the vast mass of officers whose remuneration is so much less, and whose capacity in consequence, for leaving their families provided for, is so much worse than that of an officer earning this amount of money. It seems to me that there is really no justification for this expenditure of the public funds.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. At this late period of the Session, and in the absence of so many members of the House, I do not feel disposed to press this item against the opinion expressed, and will withdraw it.

383. To refund to the Merchants Bank, in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of Merchants' Bank vs. Regina, amount of dues paid by that bank under protest.....\$2,109 21

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. It will be remembered that a vote was taken in former resolutions to pay these costs. This money was paid under protest against the decision of the court in that case, which concerns Skead's timber.

384. To provide for the payment of Mr. Fabre's salary and contingencies of his office..... \$2,500.00

Mr. BLAKE. Is this permanent?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The appointment is for three years altogether; one year has elapsed and this is the second year.

Mr. CASGRAIN. According to the returns on the Table, it appears that Mr. Fabre is confided with certain duties; and that he was required to report on what he has done, but he has done nothing at all during the past year. He has

not even complied with the instructions which he has received. I do not think he ought to be continued in office.

Mr. BLAKE. Did he not draw his salary?

Mr. CASGRAIN. Oh, yes! He was paid a portion of his salary in advance, and is now paid monthly. He is also engaged by the Government of the Province of Quebec, who give him \$3,000 a year; so he obtains \$5,500 per annum to live in Paris. But what has he done? Well, he has done one thing: he has procured what we may call, one immigrant for the Province of Quebec, although this person proved not to be an immigrant. He was taken in by an individual from Montreal, who asked for a passage; and Mr. Fabre advanced him money to return to Montreal, where he boasted of having taken in Mr. Fabre. This is the only service which, to my knowledge, he has furnished the Province of Quebec and the Dominion. Under these circumstances his services might easily be dispensed with. If he were present I would say much more, and something which is very true, and which is too true for his reputation.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will explain, after this statement, what Mr. Fabre ought to have done, and what he has done?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Three months salary was advanced in order that he might reach his destination and settle down there. I have no doubt that it took him nearly a month, after his arrival, to settle down, and in making the advance we ran a slight risk of his life. Mr. Fabre went to Paris not only to look after the business of the Dominion, in giving information to intending immigrants with reference to Canada, but also to Canadians who visit Paris; and he is also employed by the Quebec Government. Were it not for this fact \$2,500 or \$2,000 a year would not induce him to go to Paris in that capacity. Mr. Fabre is to report to us as to his doings in Paris, whenever this is required or may be useful to Canada. He is already in communication with the Government; and I have no doubt, from what I have heard, that he has performed his duties as well as could be expected under the circumstances. When he went there first enquiries about Canada were not so numerous as they are now, and I have seen several Frenchmen who came from Paris and who obtained information at Mr. Fabre's office; and I have no doubt that this will increase. You could not expect that at the beginning he would be as useful as he must be in the future. At all events, this experiment is to be tried for three years. The first year has passed, and I am confident that the second year will give us still better results, while I hope that the third year will be so satisfactory as to induce us to continue this position. If we find we do not get value for our money, we can abolish the office; but I think it is only proper, that in the capital of France we should have an agent. We have agents in other countries, and it is only due to that portion of the population of Canada who speak the French language and whose origin is such that he is enabled to give to his compatriots on the other side of the ocean all possible information about Canada, the French Canadians, and the institutions and lands of that Province, modes of communication, and so on. All this information Mr. Fabre is in a position to give, and gives.

Mr. BLAKE. There is one position which the hon. gentleman takes in which I think he is most secure, and that is that more is likely to be done the second year than the first for the simple reason that it would be very difficult to show results less than nothing at all. Of course we all rejoice that something is being done in the direction which the hon. gentleman mentions, but still I do not think that the choice was a wise one. Mr. Fabre is a very pleasant companion, but he is a very brilliant and versatile writer, and in the times gone by I have read with great pleasure the articles he wrote for his newspaper in which he gave me undeserved