

and arranged for its transportation. He then had to let the contract with a sawmill for the cutting of the lumber required; and while waiting for the lumber to be sawn he was instructed to examine two other bridges in the locality, which were said to be in a dangerous condition, but his services in connection with that were included in this particular account. He then returned to the Musqueosh bridge, inspected and measured the timber which had been sawed, and when it was all delivered it became necessary for the first time to engage a few laborers to assist in framing and preparing the timber for erection. When the timber was all ready to be put into the bridge he engaged a sufficient number of men to put it together. The result of his work was that a bridge, which originally cost \$1,500, was replaced by another equally as good and serviceable a bridge for \$988.

It has necessitated some detail to trace the work that Mr. Wickett did in connection with this bridge before engaging labor but the circumstances in this case are practically the same as in the other cases referred to by Mr. Whitney, and it has been thought well to enter into it fully. Had Mr. Wickett engaged some ten or fifteen men, and kept them idle under pay and stood round with his hands in his pockets watching them, presumably Mr. Whitney's criticism would never have been made, as it is only to the non-employment of labor he seems to object. But because Mr. Wickett did all the framing and preliminary work himself he is charged with extravagance and being a Government heeler. The curious fact of it is that Mr. Wickett was a Conservative when he was engaged, and was employed for his energy and skill, and not for his politics.

It will thus be seen how little fault can fairly be found when these are the only charges which can be brought, and it is necessary to rake the ashes of the past for them. The leader of the Opposition and his friends are never tired of praising the honest, economical and efficient Government of Sandfield Macdonald. Let them rake in the ashes of his road expenditure and see what they will find.

If they look on page 34 of the Public Accounts for 1868, they will find the following item: "Hon. J. Carling, to pay expenses incurred in survey of colonization roads, \$4,172 84." Let them investigate that item, and they will find that the survey consisted of a party of excursionists on a specially-chartered steamer, provisioned and supplied with wine and whiskey galore, with band and bagpipes, and that the only surveys made were through the bottoms of tumblers on the deck of the steamer. When Mr. Whitney and his friends find an item like that charged to colonization roads under the Hardy Government they will have some ground for criticism.