OTTAWA LETTER.

Discussion on P. E. Island Winter Mail Service.

Mr. Mulock's Action Open to Condem-Ination by the S. P. C. A.

Bremner's Furs and Col. Domville's Expla nation of Their Disappearance from the West.

OTTAWA, May 16.-Yesterday the attention of the house of commons affairs in Prince Edward Island by Mr. Martin and his opposition colprovince has large claims growing out in regard to the mails from the isof local transportation questions and general financial relations to the do-But the particular matter which Mr. Martin brought to the attention of the house was the mail service. At best, when the only means of regular mail transportation is by ice boats between Cape Traverse and Cape Tormentine, some delays are sure to occur. But the present trouble is over the delays that have taken place dit for procuring a new boat to on the mainland between Cape Tor- the place of the Stanley. He hoped mentine and the Intercolonial. It appears that this delay is entirely unnecessary. There is a railway between these two points which is always open. As Mr. Powell explained at the end of the debate, several Intercolonial mail trains arrive at Sackville during the day, and the regular traffic trains of the railway to Cape Tormentine cannot make close connections with them all. The through train from and to Montreal and the west are the ones with which Mr. Mulock wishes to establish connections. Some of these trains are usually behind time, and it is impossible to make a time table on the branch line which will connect with them and at the same time perform a local service, for which the railway is

Senator Wood's company offered to

provide a special train to meet the case. This train would always leave Sackville when the mails came there, and leave Cape Tormentine when the mails arrived by the ice boat. Mr. Mulock refused to pay the price required, which Mr. Powell says is lower than is paid for similar service by Mr. Mulock to other roads in Canada At the same time the postmaster general protested against the failure to make connections with all the mail trains. Finally the opportunity was improved to make friends with the mammon of unrighteousness and mix the affair up with New Brunswick provincial politics. Senator Wood does not support the Emmerson govand one the ernment, ministry, who of the was also a candidate for a seat in the house, wanted to take away the mail contract from the railway and obtain for friends of his own. The result as a retrograde movement, as Mr. Martin calls it, and the transfer of the te maintained. If that cannot be done service to a stage. The distance is 38 niles, but this particular family in terest required that it should be made still greater. Aulac Station is the nearest point on the Intercolonial, but the contract was made that mails should be carried past this station four miles farther to Sackville. The effect of this pleasing arrangement was that while the stage driver was moving along the line of the Intercolonial, the train which he was trying to meet was speeding past him. mails were accordingly piled up till the next day. Popular clamor and derision caused a change in these arrangements, and the contract was transferred to other favorites, who made delivery at Aulac.

Such is the explanation given at the end of the debate by Mr. Powell. We may now return to Mr. Martin, who explained that under the contract by open stage, mails were delivered anywhere from one to four days behind time, that they were kept between Aulac and Cape Tormentine from Monday until Thursday, that sometimes they were deposited along the road in barns and other shelters, and occasionally dropped on the highway. that on the whole the service was as wretched as it possibly could he. It is natural that he should speak in rather strong language of a service like this, which takes in the mails for a whole province, and especially that he should refer to Sir Louis Davies, who a few weeks ago was posing as the chief defender of interests of Prince Edward Island. The other day Mr. Mulock announced that the horse conveyance had proved satisfactory and it was proposed to call for tenders to estabish it permanently. For it may be irked that the policital contract made last winter was given without tender. Mr. Martin read a number of letters from travellers and merchants speaking of this mail service, pointed out that it was decidedly unsatisfactory and that it had inflicted great injury on merchants. whose bills of lading and other papers had been delayed, and that among other things it violated the principles of the S. P. C. A., inasmuch as the contractor's horses were, some of them, unfit to be on the road. Mr. Martin was willing that Mr. Mulock should busy himself with establishing penny postage all over the emat a considerable expense to Canada, but suggested that Prince Edward Island was a part of the empire not entirely without importance and that the minister ought in the midst of his great enterprises to give some thought to this part of his own country. He would perhaps conclude that it was a mean business to try to save a few dollars by depriving the province of a regular communication which could be established at comparatively small cost by special train.

If the ministers would not do it, Mr. Martin believed that the people of Prince Edward Island would rather pay for it themselves than go on as the postmaster general proposed It often happened that mails came from Vancouver to Halifax in less time

than they went from Helifax to Charlottetown, and one merchant was quoted as saying that the service nade connections only six times during the winter. What was really needed was a special mail train with mail clerks, who could assort the mails so that they could be delivered at Cape Traverse for transmisssion eastward to Charlottetown or westward to Summerside. This would not cost more than was paid for much less important services elsewhere. Mr. Mulock had offered no adequate defence for the humiliation he had inflicted on the province.

Mr. Bell and Mr. McLellan seemed to hesitate between their desire to support the government and their wish for a better mail service. Both of them freely admitted that the arrangements were not satisfactory, but both said that as regards a porwas once nore called to the state of tion of the mail bound to the island from the mainland, the stage service was better than the train service had league, Mr. McDonald. The island been. They did not make such a claim land to the mainland, nor for those from the mainland to the western part of the island. Both advocated the establishment of a special train service and mildly objected to the proposed course of Mr. Mulock to make permanent the system established last winter. Mr. Bell tried to let the gov-ernment down easy, by saying that Sir Louis Davies deserved great crethat one of the two boats would be established on the western service and that a regular steam boat service might be continued between Summerside and the mainland during the winter. This was apparently intended as a diversion from the subject under consideration.

> Mr. McDonald got back to the point. It strikes him as being an altogether shameful thing that this alleged progressive government should have gone back to sleighs and stages on a forty mile route, when a railroad was there prepared to do business on easy terms. Mr. McDonald is not so sanguine as Mr. Bell about the possibilities of steamboat service over the western route. He stands by Georgetown but will be glad to see the Cape route attempted. In the meantime he cannot see why the government should not avail themselves of modern means of conveyance and give Prince Edward Island a special mail service, as in done elsewhere, when there is need of it.

Sir Louis Insisted that the stage was all right, much better than the service of old times. He declared that connections had been well made, but would "candidly admit" that the island was entitled to a special train service with mail clerks and all conveniences for handling the mail traffic expeditiously. This seems to be a candid admission on the part of the minister of marine that the postmaster general is too much for him. Sin Louis went on to commend himself for buying a new ship and to say that he was going to have a survey made of the route between the Capes and see whether a steamship service could may be presumed, for all that Sir Louis said to the contrary, that some of Mr. Emmerson's friends will continue to plod along through the snow with the Prince Edward Island mails, delivering them any time from one day to a week after they are due, and denositing them in the meantime at such convenient or inconvenient places as may be found.

Mr. Powell's statements mentioned

above put a new light on the matter and a remark of Sir Louis Davies gave them additional point. Sir Louis observed that the Cape Tormentine railway now performed a local ser vice for the postmaster general, and intimated that if the company would not accept Mr. Mulock's terms for a special through service, it would lose the other contract. Mr. Powell said that he understood all about this threat, and admitted that the government probably had friends rould be glad to get this job also. But he assured Sir Louis that the owners of the railway were not likely to b intimidated by threats. They had offered to perform the service at the ordinary rates. They would wait to see what the minister would do. If he carried out his threat the company could survive, as it fortunately was not dependent upon anything was Sir Louis Davies could do in its behalf. The government had succeeded in giving a most disgraceful mail ser vice to Prince Edward Island, and in doing so had saved no money to the post office department. On the contrary, it would be found that whole thing was bay economy though for the purpose of the New Brunswick provincial election, it might have been smart politics.

It is now some fourteen years since the last Riel rebellion, but Mr. Davis, one of the government supporters in the Northwest, thinks it an appropri ate time to bring the subject into active politics. Perhaps it would require a larger man than Mr. Davis whose position as a statesman is not one of great eminence, to make Riel a live issue again, and it is possible that the premier of Canada, who once expressed a willingness to shoulde musket against the Canadian forces, may have relaxed his militar; order. At all events, when Mr. Davis told the house that the halfbreeds were justified in their rebellion. when he spoke of "Mr. Riel" with deep respect. Sir Wilfrid did not announce his intention of enlisting in new army against Dr. Borden's Mr. Davis wants recom militia. pense for the losses inflicted on sundry halfbreeds, including Mr. Bremer, whose furs were once famous in Canadian history. General Middleton got into some disgrace because he was alleged to have stolen these furs, and Mr. Davis still accuses him of that crime. Mr. Bremner never got any pay for the goods, though, according to Mr. Davis, there was an understanding that he should be recompensed.

The discussion advanced to the stage of a dispute as to Gen. Middleton's connection with the affair. This whole matter was tried out a few

bers of that committee are still in the house, including Mr. McNeill, and a number are there who took part in the discussion which followed the re-port of the committee. But the memory of public men fails on matters of detail, and it was interesting to notice that no two members seemed to have the same recollection of the occurrence. There is no doubt, however, that Bremner brought his furs to Battleford; that they were seized and held by General Middleton on the supposition that Bremner was an active insurgent; that while they were so retained by the order of the general. a number of parcels were made up, one of which was intended for Gen. Middleton. It appeared that General Middleton never came into personal possession, or at least never used the parcel intended for him. But it was never established who finally wore the furs. It is certain, however, that Bremner did not get them back.

Mr. Davis says that Bremner was never rebellious, and that he is now poor and entitled to consideration. Col. Domville rose to the occasion by announcing that he was General Middleton's friend and seeing that the general was dead, he felt bound to say that Middleton got no furs. It is Col. Domville's belief that the goods came to Ottawa and are still worn in fashionable circles, though he did not indulge the curiosity of the house by indicating the persons who wear them. The culpability of Gen. Middleton ceased to be a live issue some years ago. Queen Victoria, or those who advise her, showed their faith in his trustworthiness by appointing him "keeper of the Crown Jewels." en office which would be singularly inappropriate for one who could not be trusted with a consignment of furs. This may be regarded as a subtle and ironical statement by Her Majesty of want of confidence in Gen. Middleton's accusers.

Mr. McInnes of British Columbia has had several ambitions. When he came here he strongly opposed the Crow's Nest policy of the government and boldly entered the lists against the minister of railways. At the end of the last session he took an affecting leave of his fellow commoners, announcing that he was going into provincial politics in the west. Fortunately for him, the resignation which he prepared did not reach the hands of the speaker. So when Mr. McInnes, having issued a proclamation to the electors of Naniamo announcing his policy and intention in local politics, was induced by untoward circumstances to abandon this field, he found his seat at Ottawa still free for occupation. The father of Mr. McInnes turned out the Turner government with a view, as it is suggested, of making an opening for this young man. Our member entered into communication with Mr. Bevan, whom his father designated for the premiership. As Mr. Bevan himself could not form a government, nothing came of the transaction.

leagues. He is going in for peace lish a mint in British Columbia. In this behalf the member for Nanaimo makes out a pretty strong case, which is supported by members on both sides of the house. Mr. Casey and Mr. Oliver from the government side, Messrs. Henderson, Wallace, Osler of the opposition party supported the resolution. Australia, with less population than we have, and which produces no more gold than the yield of Canada is expected to be in a year or two, has done her own coining for many years.

Mr. Fielding sees objections. In the first place, he does not think there will be any profit in the operation. Secondly, it does not strike him that there is any demand for additional gold coins in this country. The people would rather have paper money, and if gold coins took the place of paper money, the result would be the retirement of Dominion notes, which, he says, are a convenient way of borrewing money for the government without interest. By way of emphasis Mr. Fielding expressed the opinion that probably there was not a gold coin in the possession of a single member of the house. This point was, however, not sustained as Sir Rich. ard Cartwright, who sits by his side. produced one before the debate end-

Clarke Wallace stuck a pin in Mr. Fielding's argument about the Dominion notes. He did not think that gold coinage would include many one and two-dollar pieces, and as the Dominion notes circulation is confined to one and two-dollar bills, there will be no interference. Whatever Sisplacement there might be would be at the expense of the banks. A rather odd feature of the discussion was the assumption that the establishment of a mint would give the government the profit that is made out of the seignority in silver and copper coin. Everybody knows that silver in a Canadian silver coin is only worth about half the face value of the money, and that the metal value of a copper coin is only a small fraction of its coin value. These coins are now made in England but the maker does not get the advantage of this profit. He only gets paid for his work and the government gets the rest. All the profit there will be in the establishment of a mint in Canada is the mechanical profit such as would accrue to any other industrial enterprise. Another misapprehension which seemed to be current in the house among the retail merchants relates to the 20 cent piece. Mr. Henderson begged the government to take measures to call in these coins and to issue no more of them. But anyone who has this money in his possession will probably find on examination that it has a Newfoundland imprint, so that the government cannot prevent its issue, S. D. S. call it in.

OTTAWA. May 17 .- If Sir James Edgar could nave got away from the chair yesterday afternoon or evening, the debate would have been resumed on the Drummond Railway

years after the rebellion by a par-liamentary committee of which Mr. McNeill was chairman. Some mem-Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper rose to make a few observations. In order to be regular he promised to close his remarks with a motion to adjourn. This was a little after three in the afternoon. It was after ten in the evening when he fulfilled his promise. The subsequent hours before midnight were expended by others in dealing with the matter which he brought to the attention of the house.

> It was a rather serious matter. There are two safeguards to the public against corrupt or unwarranted expenditure of public money. One is the auditor general, 'vho does what he can to check irregularity and illegality in the expenditure. His powers are limited, inasmuch as he can be overruled by the committee of ministers called the treasury board. Besides, an expenditure may be corrupt and still be within the law. The other check is the publ's accounts committee, an inquisitorial body which has full power to investigate the accounts of the previous year and to go back over any old accounts which the house may refer. The committee has nominally a wide scope. In practice its power to investigate is limited by the fact that the majority are under the influence of the government and by the limitation of time.

Last year the session came to an end while two important matters were under investigation. It was decided that they should be postponed to this year. The evidence was printed and it was announced that at the earliest or portanity in this session the enquiry would be resumed. earliest opportunity would probably be some ten days after the meeting of the house. The premier indeed intimates that the address ought to pass before the committee should meet, but there is no reason either in law or the nature of the case for that. While the address is before the house the committees may all be in session, and even if the government should be defeated on the address, the work of the committee would not be changed. The work has no relation to the personnel of the government, but is an enquiry into the expenditure of moneys controlled by parliament. It does not natter whether the money is spent by a grit or a tory. The business of the committee is to ascertain the details, and there is no reason why the committee should not be at work as soon as the session begins. Especially when matters are held over from the preceding session, it would seem that no time should be wasted.

Parliament met on the 16th March. It was on the 16th of May, two months afterward, that Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper rose to make his protest against the delay in calling the committee. Mr. Foster had on two occasions urged that the committee be called. A day had twice been suggested, and twice the meetings had been postponed. Mr. D. C. Fraser, M. P. for Guysboro, succeeds Mr. Mc-Now that Mr. McInnes is back in parliament, he has forgiven the incommittee, and Mr. Fraser, however iquities of Mr. Blair and his college to the incommittee of the is not in a wild and furious hurry to forward the enquiry into public expenditure.

> Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper is per sonally concerned in this matter. Last year he brought up in the committee certain astonishing payments of money to Mr. Sifton's friends in Manitoba and even to Mr. Sifton himself. The enquiry was pursued in committee for several days. Mr. Sifton's associate in this expenditure, a lawyer named Howell, was brought from Winnipeg with great difficulty. When he got here it was found that he had left his account books behind. It was surprisina how little he knew of the matter which he had in hand and which had been so expensive to the dominion treasury. But when he came to be cross-examined by Mr. Sifton his knowledge was almost superhuman His memory was as accurate as a gas meter. It even partook of the peculiarities sometimes described of that instrument, by giving excess surements. Mr. Sifton gave Mr. Howell to understand what he wanted him to say about the tory crimes that he was prosecuting in Manitoba, and Mr. Howell said it with great earnestness and volubility. It was unfortunate for his case that none of these crimes were proved to the satisfaction of the court of justice. The accused were not convicted, and the record of the crime is chiefly maintained in the devious avenues of Mr. Howell's memcry and a prodigious hole in the do

minion treasury. It was at the end of this kindly examination by Mr. Sifton and before Sir Charles Hibbert had been able to extract from the obscure by-lane of Mr. Howell's recollection any fair account of the purposes to which these thousands of dollars were applied, that the session approached an end. Mr. Sifton thereupon asked that the committee report on the transaction without further inquiry. Sir Charles Hibbert would not agree to a report until the facts were elicited. He wanted to know where the money went, and insisted that the committee could not report on the expenditure until the members knew something about it. It did not strike Mr. Sifton or Mr. Fielding that this preliminary was essen tial, and they insisted on a report. Finally the opposition members of the committee positively stated that they would not go home or allow the parliament to be prorogued until this matter was probed to the bottom, unless it was understood that it should be left open until next session. Mr. Sifton and his friends thereupon intimated that Sir Charles Hibbert wanted to escape the responsibility, and that if the matter were left unreported nothing more would be heard of it hereafter. Sir Charles in reply gave a solemn undertaking that he would be here at the beginning of this ession prepared to resume the enquiry and earry it through to the end.

He was he re as he agreed. He had his lists (f witnesses. He was pre-pared for the calling of the commitgan was he called away, and then he left the names of his

the motions he wished to present, in the hands of Mr. Borden, so that there should be no delay on his account. But the government, which was so much concerned last year lest the matter should drop and so anxious for a committee report on the evidence of Mr. Sifton's associates in Mr. Sifton's bogus prosecution, has become singularly apathetic. the reason why Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper came to the front vesterday One thing at least he made plain to Mr. Sifton and his colleagues, and that was that whoever might be interested in hushing up this enquiry, he was not.

The member for Pictou went over the facts mentioned above, and then proceeded to a discussion of the subject matter of the enquiry, quoting largely from the evidence taken last year. He showed that \$10,000 expended on this miserable business was taken from the treasury with no warrant of law, without authority of parliament, without a vote of any kind, and for purposes never undertaken before by the Canadian ministry. He showed that it was done secretly, and that when the governor general's signature was sought to the warrant for payment it was procured on deliberately false statements of fact and of the purposes for which the money was intended. This is a strong charge, but it was proved. It is an old story, but a brief rehearsal is still not with interest and will assist in the understanding of the report of the commit

At the time of the election of 1896 Mr. Sifton was attorney general of Manitoba. His party expected to carry some seats in the province which they lost. Then it was determined to protest the election. But it seems to have occurred to Mr. Sifton that the But there is no conspiracy so odious expenses of an election protest might conveniently transferred to the dominion treasury. Mr. Sifton wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier that election frauds were discovered in Manitoba. but that the province could not afford to prosecute them. Sir Wilfrid in reply informed Mr. Sifton that the government a: Ottawa would willingly bear the expense. Now it is not the or taken during the session that then business of the government at Ottawa to carry on criminal prosecutions, and money was paid; another session was Sir Wilfrid had no right to make any such promise, especially as he had no statement of facts which would justi- \$6,000. The payment to Mr. Howell fy him in supposing that a crime had had been made by an exchange of

The premier did not bring the matter before his newly formed governat Winnipeg, and of course was ment. He called what in the evidence charged against Sifton at Ottawa. It was designed 'a sub-committee of the executive," and this meeting decided o advance the money. The sub-committee included Sir Oliver Mowat, Sir Louis Davies and the premier. It was not a sub-committee of the council, because the council had never appointed it. It had no authority from the council or any one else to do anything. Nevertheless it did authorize Mr. Sifton to go on and spend money. Mr. Sifton was not then a member of | tons' personal and private bank acthe government, but was still a Mani- | count.

It was proved afterwards that Mr. guise of "unforseen expenses," hough Sifton had no evidence at all when he these identical expenses had been got this credit at Ottawa. He used foreseen and promised eleven months the money to bring detectives from before by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. One the United States, and to employ all session of parliament had intervened sorts of rascals in Manitoba to go between the two dates, and the transaround disguised as picture sellers action was not even mentioned in and horse traders to fish for evidence. The more they fished the more they vid not catch anybody, but the more money they drew from Ottawa. Mr. Howell got thousands of dollars, and has never been able to give any rational statement of how he earned it. Mr. Wade, who has subsequently pursued a questionable public career the Yukon, where he laid the foundation of a fortune, while he was a government officer, got \$1,500 for ser vices which Sir Oliver Mowat himself declared to be only worth \$600. Freeborn, an unmitigated scamp, after the elections had tried to blackmuil the conservatives in Manitoba, and after their refusal to give him money, had gone over to Sifton with a story of crime, got over \$800, and ro account is given of the return he made, except that he gave testimony which the courts refused to believe. The end of it all is well known. Nobody was convicted except one man, Saunders, who was cleared of a charge of conspiracy which Sifton made, but was convicted of another offence on his own evidence. The evidence was said to be willingly given, and it is suggested that he get a considerable of the whole enquiry, and in the face share of the financial appropriation, of the transaction at would appear After he had served the term of imprisonment, Mr. Sifton's friends appointed him to an office.

As was remarked, Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself gave Mr. Sifton authority to carry on this prosecution at the expense of Ottawa though Mr. Sifton was a provincial minister. Mr. Sifton afterwards became minister of the interior and passed over his job to Howell. Howell, as Sir Charles Tupper points out, passed over the pros cution to a horde of Sifton's relatives and friends over the province. They rushed hither and thither, charging several times their travelling expens and anywhere from ten to fifty dollars a day for useless services, arresting people, carrying a magistrate around with them to hold preliminary investigations, retaining a magnificent agglomeration of professional liars to testify, and finally accomplishing nothing except the pillage of the exchequer at Ottawa. Sir Charles Hibbert makes a striking comparison between the magnificent frenzy of virtue which attacked Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues two or three years ago with the complacency with which they now regard the adventures of their own boodling brigade in Brockville and West Hu ron. It was alleged that in Manitoba fewer ballots for grit candidates were found in two or three polls than there were voters who swore that they had cast such ballots. Now it happens that exactly the same thing occurred a few months ago in West Huron. In that by-election in one poll only 40 ballots were found marked for Mr. McLean, and 50 men have sworn that they voted for 1im. In another place a similar deficiency has been found. This discrepancy is worse than the duce his accounts was not his fault. alleged shortage in the Manitoba poll. Yet when the matter was brought to Dr. Sproule met this statement by Dr. Sproule met this statement by the attention of this government the producing from the committee's rec-



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ministers remained perfectly at ease in Zion.

In Brockville there are cases of crime and tampering with ballots. Sir Wilfrid does nothing about it. Prosecutions are going on, but private parties originate them and are paying the expenses. The dominion treasury, so open to the raids of the Howells, Wades and the Siftons of Manitoba, is hermetically sealed against the prosecutors of the frands in Brock-

"I feel confident that you will un-

earth a most odious conspiracy and

we will willingly advance the money," said Sir Wilfrid to Mr. Sifton before he knew what evidence Mr. Sifton had. that Sir Wilfrid can even see it when the conspirators are supporters of his own. There was money enough wasted in Manitoba to prosecute all the election frauds that are likely to occur in Canada for the next ten years. and it is a singular fact, that while this money was paid in part in July and August of 1896, no vote was asked followed. That session passed, more near at hand when the governor general was asked to sign a warrant for personal drafts with Mr. Sifton. Sifton drew on Howell and Howell arew on Sifton. The money was paid was kited back and forwards in the banks from July, 1896, to March, 1897. and was spent in the way indicated. After all this the governor general was asked to sign a warrant for this money as "an advance" for the purpose of prosecuting frauds in Manitoba. Of course, it was no advance, but a payment of expenditure previously incurred, or, to be more accurate, it was a payment of Mr. Sif-

Another \$4,000 was paid under the

the house. Now, as to the expenses themselves. There was, for instance, \$1,500 paid to Wade, subsequently registrar of the Yukon. This bill Mr. Sifton paid. Afterwards it was sent to the department of justice to be taxed. Sir Oliver Mowat was rather shocked when he saw 'he bill, and ordered it to be cut down to \$600. His deputy cut it down accordingly. In the meantime Howell had paid Wade, and Sifton had paid Howell, and the government seems to have paid Sifton. Nobody so far as is known has returned the \$900 to the government. When Mr. Howel! did finally produce a kind of partial statement of his disbursements, he subsequently explained that it was made up by his bookkeeper months after the transaction, and that the account, as presented, "represented the ingenuity of his clerk." "Sifton two hours re ballot boxes." was the form of the Howell memorandum out of which the clerk managed to evolve a charge of some \$50. But there were no vouchers, no detailed accounts, and there was an atter disagreement between some of the statements. No results came cut that the large part of this expenditure was a payment of .Ar. Sifton's private obligations.

"There is not to reason why. There is but to vote or die,' said Sir Charles as the government members tried to howl him down while he presented these facts and charges in a manner that was decidedly uncomfortable for the ministers concerned.

"I propose," he said, "as one member of the house, that if the government will not allow this investigation to go on, and if ministers will not bring down communications connected with this case, which their own evidence shows to be in their possession, that the government shall not get supply for this session if I can stop it." Sir Charles Hibbert denies the right of the government to testify about papers in their possession, to assert that they have documents to justify their actions, and yet to keep this evidence back as "private and confidential communications." He will have no private and confidential communications on matters involving these reckless expenditures. Sir Hibbert's analysis of the case was complete and masterly, occupying over four hours and covering most of the

salient points. A discursive discussion followed. Mr. McMullen, who was last chairman of the public accounts committee last year, followed Sir Charles Hibbert with a brief defence of the committee and the government. Mr. McMullen rather but his foot in it by asserting that the failure of Mr. Howell to proords the s him to br ments co Mr. McM that the were gre have been Davies h frauds v tury," Si lecture S being a r mittee h before the speech o one by from the minsters. Sir Charl bate was Dr. Sprot until Mr. tack fairl It was

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