

tleman who collected for Miramichi, which comprised besides Chatham and Newcastle, Douglstown and Nelson, resided at Douglstown. He had steadily opposed Mr. HUTCHESON, the former member for Northumberland and it was through the influence of the latter that he was removed. Mr. MILLER had well and faithfully discharged his duties, but because he was a friend of PETER MITCHELL's his salary was reduced from \$1,100 to \$500. The change was made without his (Mr. MITCHELL's) recommendation. Occupying an independent position in this House, he asked the Government for no favors, but he was bound to state that he had no hand, act, or part in removing Mr. MILLER from his position.

Hon. Mr. BURPEE said the hon. gentleman must surely know that an officer could not discharge the duties of an appraiser and not live in either town. The salary was the maximum amount allowed by law, and as there was nothing to do in the winter months, it was fair enough. He repeated his assurance that the change was not made for political reasons.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL pointed to instances where appraisers did not live within a mile and a half of the ports where they discharged their duties. He challenged the hon. Minister of Customs to show one single charge that had ever been made against Mr. MILLER in his official capacity. While he (Mr. MITCHELL) had to accept the explanations of the hon. Minister of Customs, he had his own convictions.

Mr. PLUMB called attention to the fact that there was an increase of \$375, at Fort Erie, \$450 at St. Catharines, \$950 at Clifton, \$2,275 at Hamilton, and a decrease of \$190 at Niagara. He asked for explanations.

Hon. Mr. BURPEE said the contingent fund for Fort Erie had been found insufficient, hence the increase at that port. At Hamilton the increase was for delivering goods to merchants. Instead of charging them for the examination of their goods the expense was covered by this appropriation. There had been one appointment made at Clifton at the request of the Collector there, an increase of salaries of two officers and an increase of \$50 in the contingent fund.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. PLUMB said these were illustrations in a small way of the economy which they were told would be shown by hon. gentlemen opposite. These were small sums, but they amounted to a good deal in the aggregate.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK complained that the Government in making appointments frequently passed new men over the heads of officers who had been in the service for years, and for no cause that he could see, but for political reasons. If there was a Civil Service Act on the statute books it should be observed in making these promotions.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said the Civil Service Act would be brought down shortly, but he did not think they could follow the same course with regard to the outside service as with the Civil Service at Ottawa. The other Government did not do so, nor did the present Administration find it possible always to promote according to seniority. Where it was possible to do so, it had been done. It was not always possible to find among employees who had been four or five years in the service, persons fit to discharge the duties of collectors. With regard to the increase of salaries, it would be remembered that there was an increase of two and a-half millions in the revenue, and there was necessarily a larger expense in collecting it. The Minister of Customs had devoted himself to the work of reforming certain very flagrant abuses, which had existed in his department for some time, and it was quite impossible for him to do so unless he employed officers of a competent and reliable character. Some of the most flagrant of these abuses were found in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and he could not have believed they existed if he had not got the details. In one place on the boundary of the United States, merchants were in the habit of taking goods across the frontier without entering them, and sending in checks, at such times as pleased themselves, to the collector of that port. The Minister of Customs found it necessary, in view of such abuses, to take measures for the better collection of the revenue.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Finance Minister to specify any charges he had to make against the officials of New Brunswick. His opinion was that the department was as well managed in that Province as in any other part of the