

which cause loss of life or injury to the person shall be treated as part of the working expenses; so that the whole vote taken for the working expenses of the railways will be properly chargeable for any amount the Government decide should be fairly paid to any person who is entitled to compensation, on an equitable view of the question as these accidents occur. They will refer to the past as well as the present, and it will be my duty to consider these cases at an early day.

Mr. BLAKE. Then the vote for the current year will be available for compensation for accidents which occurred in prior years?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I may ask the indulgence of the House—without re-opening the discussion on the subject to be allowed to read part of a letter from Mr. McNab, dated 11th June, 1879. Does the hon. gentleman remember when the accident occurred?

Mr. DAVIES. Not exactly, but I think it was the 10th of August, 1880.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. McNab wrote, on the 11th of June, 1879, as follows:—

"I am happy to be able to report satisfactory progress in regard to railway matters, and I only wonder that the duties of superintendent and engineer were not long ago combined, as one officer can so readily discharge them."

So that the Government had no apprehension that the writer was being overworked at that time.

Mr. BLAKE. I wish to say one word on this subject that I intended to have said on a former occasion, and that is, that a strong impression was left on my mind by some letters or papers which were submitted in the Public Accounts Committee with reference to the superannuation of Mr. McNab, that there was a letter from that gentleman, written in view of a leave of absence in which he stated as a ground—I cannot give the phrase—but something to the effect that over-work, and extreme anxiety, occasioned by the arduous character of his duties, was the ground on which he made this request. The impression was left that the extreme nervous prostration was due to over-work.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman is right. That did appear, but at the particular time in question this letter was the only information I had. I had no information at variance with this statement down to that period. Afterwards there is no doubt that Mr. McNab was completely broken down, and came to be in the state of extreme nervous prostration which disqualified him for this work.

On Resolution 287,

To provide for extra services and expenses in connection with the Act granting bounties to fishermen..... \$3,000.00

Mr. PAINT. In giving bounties to fishermen to encourage them in the prosecution of their calling, it is understood that we should afford them protection. I have been requested to bring a matter before this House. The papers should have reached me earlier, in February, but they have only come to hand within a few days. If it is any discourtesy to the Ministry to bring it forward in this manner, I beg their pardon, but I wish to get the matter before the public. It presents itself in the shape of an outrage committed on Dominion fishermen by Newfoundland fishermen; and to introduce the matter intelligently, I shall read from the document that has been placed in my hands:

"That your memorialist resides at Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough, in the Province of Nova Scotia, and there carries on a large business of catching and curing fish

"That your memorialist is owner of the schooner *Sea Flower*, of one hundred and thirteen tons, and last summer fitted her out for a fishing voyage to the Labrador Coast, for the purpose of catching and curing herring.

"That said schooner was fully equipped for said voyage and had a crew of fourteen hands all told, under the command of Captain Edmund

Purcell, of Port Mulgrave, aforesaid, and was supplied with salt and barrels sufficient for curing a complete cargo.

"That said schooner left on said voyage on the sixth day of August, A.D. 1882, and arrived at Sizes Harbour, on the Coast of Labrador, about the twentieth day of that month.

"That said Sizes Harbour is on that part of the Coast of Labrador over which the Government of the Colony of Newfoundland has, as your memorialist is informed and believes, territorial jurisdiction and control, and over which the said Government exercises the right and power of exacting and collecting Customs and other duties.

"That when said schooner arrived at said harbour there were a large number of vessels there hailing from St. Johns, Harbour Grace, Carbonear, Catilina, Spaniards Bay and other places in said Island of Newfoundland, and were manned by a large number of seamen belonging to those places.

"That on Friday, the twenty-fifth day of the said month of August, the crew of said schooner ran out their seine one hundred and ten fathoms long, and enclosed therein in said harbour at least three thousand barrels of herring and had them secured in the said seine already to dip out and remove to said schooner, when a large number of men and boats from said vessels came, and notwithstanding the resistance of the crew of said schooner *Sea Flower*, with force and violence drove the said crew away and dipped out and carried away the said herring and deprived your memorialist thereof.

"That the said crew again on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of said month, hove said seine and enclosed and had secured at least five hundred barrels of herring, and were again by said men from said vessels in the same manner deprived thereof.

"That on Wednesday, the thirtieth day of said month, your memorialist's crew again hove said seine and enclosed at least five hundred barrels of herring, and the captain of said schooner seeing the same men coming again to deprive him of said fish, and they having in their wantonness before much injured and destroyed said seine, the said captain, in order to save the said seine from total destruction, was compelled to take the same up and allow all the fish taken to escape.

"That said schooner could have brought home twelve hundred barrels of fish, and the captain had means on board thereof whereby he could have cured a much larger number and could have freighted them home, and he could have sold what fish he did not need in their fresh state to parties in said harbour for at least one dollar and fifty cents per barrel. That said captain with said crew thereafter only secured three hundred barrels of fish and had to return with on y that amount.

"That by said depredations of said inhabitants of the Colony of Newfoundland, your memorialist has suffered great loss and injury, and your memorialist is advised and believes that these parties have been carrying on these depredations for several years, causing great loss and injury to other inhabitants of said Province of Nova Scotia.

"Your memorialist therefore humbly prays that such proceedings may be taken on behalf of the authorities of the Dominion of Canada as will prevent a recurrence of these depredations upon and injuries to the inhabitants of said Dominion of Canada, and that such relief may be accorded your memorialist as the nature and circumstances of the case may warrant.

"And as in duty bound, your memorialist will ever pray, &c."

In this matter the lives of those on board were threatened and their property was wrested from them by force. The document I have just read sets forth the grievance. This Mr. Purcell has been engaged in the prosecution of fisheries for forty years, and does a large part of his business in the county of Richmond, which I have the honor to represent. It may be doubted by some whether there is a necessity for the services of the Government steamer *La Canadienne*, under the able direction of Commander Wakeham. I am able personally to testify to her value, in rendering protection to the fishermen, their vessels, and wrecks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Straits of Belle Isle and the shores of Labrador. There are a number of other important papers in connection with this case, and I trust the Government of the Dominion will see to the protection of its subjects, and prevent such outrages being perpetrated on our fishermen. The loss in connection with this affair is estimated at \$10,000, and I may add that such transactions as this tend to destroy and prevent Inter-provincial Trade. I should be inclined to recommend the following course in this matter: that satisfaction be first obtained and explanation given afterwards. The Americans are very sensitive on matters such as these, and are very jealous and vigilant in the protection of their citizens. To declare yourself an American, it is well known, is to ensure your protection, and from the very first, from the declaration of Independence, the consuls and the Navy of the United States took good care to protect and preserve their subjects wherever found, and they do so to this day. They usually act without consulting Washington, and are