

given to Mr. Schrieber and adjudicated upon by him; the contractors furnishing all the information in their possession. Mr. Schrieber reported in September, classifying the claims under three heads. First—Direct claims, those in connection with work not sub-let. These claims all being assented to by the contractors were by Commissioners recommended to the Council for payment with the suggestion: that, inasmuch as the Commissioners had been told that many of the claims had changed hands at a large discount, only seventy-five per cent of the sums be paid, unless the holders showed that they had paid more. This report was adopted, and nearly all these claims have been settled by Mr. Schrieber or myself. It was certainly a great hardship to poor laborers to be kept out of their earnings four years, but the hardship was increased by the time and labor they spent in seeking payment from contractors, members of Parliament and Commissioners. I know many men who in visits to me at different times travelled in the aggregate hundreds of miles, and it was a great relief and pleasure to me when the matter was in a position to settle with them. Another class of claims were reported by Mr. Schrieber as indirect. Part of the work was by the original contractors sub-let, and the subs being unpaid their laborers also suffered. The claims for labor under these subs, in many cases largely exceeded the balances admitted by the contractors as due from the subs under the prices of sub-letting. The liability of the sum set apart by the House to labor claims under sub-contractors, being very strongly objected to, the matter was referred to the Council. No decision was conveyed to Commissioners, and no action has been taken in respect to them, and they with the rejected list mainly make up the unpaid claims on section four and seven, not one of which do, or have ever owned, although when the list is brought down, many of them will as I before stated, appear in my name, but from the causes already given. The circumstances attending all these labor claims, certainly make very strongly against the idea of speculating in them apart from other considerations with me; and in looking over the list of rejected claims I found nearly two thousand dollars in my name, so that had I been the owner instead of the medium of presentation, the speculation would have been unprofitable. I am sorry to have troubled the House with this long explanation. I know that holding the position I have had on a work surrounded

with so many difficulties, it is not well to appear thin skinned, as almost every week of the year some disappointed parties who may have suffered on the work, but from no fault of the Government or the Commissioners, will urge some complaint. But after what has appeared in the press I desired to make this explanation. I therefore make the motion on the paper.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY rose to a point of order. He did not interpose before, because he believed it had been the universal practice in Parliament, as well as a course in accordance with one's own feelings of what was right to every member who wished to make a statement affecting his own honor and character, to hear him out, and not raise any obstacle to his justification of his own conduct till the forms of the House obliged. This motion could not be entertained, for the reason that there was already a resolution on the journals to the very effect of the motion now proposed, but embracing more particulars; and as the lesser was included in the greater, the pending motion was unnecessary, the other covering the whole ground. Therefore he hoped that his hon. friend, having attained the object of his motion, would see fit and be permitted to withdraw it, that the rules of the House might not be violated.

Hon. Mr. McLELLAN said he had no objection, with the permission of the House, to withdraw his motion.—Withdrawn.

MAIL SERVICE TO P. E. ISLAND.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN was understood to enquire if any steps had been taken by the Government, with reference to his motion, of some days ago, touching the establishment of winter mail service between Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island? He wanted information with regard to the advertisements for steamboat service, and any tenders for the work.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said he had already explained that, in the interest of the public, it was not desirable to bring down the tenders; the Government had not yet decided as to which should be accepted. He had sent for the tenders, and had been answered that, by delaying a few days, it would be possible to bring down the accepted tender. The motion for tenders was granted on the understanding that, till the Government decided what should be accepted, they would not lay the tenders on the table. He had sent for the advertisement, however, which, he would see, was on the table on Monday next.

Hon. Mr. MILLER complained of delay in producing papers ordered,