

work by day's labor under the Public Works Department, irrespective of any claims made for excess of rock removed over and above the amount included in the contract?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes; the total was \$9,445.60; \$6,941 have been paid; and the balance due the said representatives is \$2,504.

282. Miscellaneous—To pay a gratuity of \$250 to each of the widows of the late James Meharg and Patrick Cooney, who met with death accidentally, 19th February, 1882, while discharging their respective duties of engineer and fireman of the Montreal Examining Warehouse.....\$500.00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This accident occurred last year. One of the deceased was the engineer in charge of the heating apparatus or engine, and the other was his assistant. When the accident took place, one seeing his companion injured and in great danger, went to his aid and met with such injuries that led also to his death. Under these circumstances we thought it proper to give this small sum, \$250, to each of the widows.

283. Miscellaneous—To pay O. Dionne, for detailed statement showing expenditure incurred for construction, maintenance, repairs, &c., in connection with the Public Works of Canada, by the Departments of Public Works and Railways and Canals, 1st July, 1867, to 30th June, 1882.....\$1,500.00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. For some two or three years the Public Accounts Committee has been asking for a statement showing the expenditure incurred in the maintenance of repairs, &c., connected with our Public Works, for each year, and also during a number of years; it has also requested the amount expended in each previous year. Well, it was impossible for us to have that work done in the time. It would have required two or three years of work, but I found that there was an officer in my Department, Mr. Dionne, who for years back had devoted his nights to this work for himself. I asked him to hand it to me, in order that I might show it to the proper officers as well as to Council. After ascertaining that the work was accurate, and exactly the work required for Parliament, I asked him to give us the work, and, I think, under these circumstances, it is only proper that he should be remunerated.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). I remember when this schedule was asked for by a Sub-Committee of Public Accounts, and I see that it covers about seven pages of the Public Accounts. But I cannot understand the fact that if any little extra work is required in the Departments, some clerk has to be employed and paid extra for his services. I think this mode of expending money should cease, for I cannot conceive that the staff of the Department is so worked night and day, that every little extra return of this sort must be specially paid for.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman would be right in this case, but for the fact that this work could not have been done in ordinary hours, and that it engaged this officer during his after hours for several years. I think that if an officer, instead of wasting his time by loafing about, or perhaps doing worse, chooses to spend his evenings in performing a useful work like this, it would be a poor encouragement to him for the Government to oblige him to hand it over without remuneration.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). I cannot see how an officer could be engaged for several years on a work which we only asked for last year.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. He had been engaged on this work for himself for years before.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). The hon. gentleman's clerks must be very acute if they can anticipate work which shall be required by the House in this way. What I object to with

Mr. BAKER (Victoria, B.C.)

regard to this extra work, is, that though ostensibly it is done outside office hours, my experience has been that in nine cases out of ten, the clerk manages to do a considerable portion of it at least during his office hours. Let a man be paid a full value of a working day for the services of a working day, but let him understand that this is all that he is going to be paid for that particular work.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman says, that so and so happens in nine cases out of ten, but I beg to inform him that this is the tenth case.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). And the others belong to the nine.

Mr. MITCHELL. I am sure that if the hon. member for West Middlesex had had the experience of some hon. members on both sides he would not have made the remark he has made with regard to the Civil Service. I can say from experience that there is a vast amount of work done by the clerks in the Departments after hours. I have been told, on information which I have received, and which I have reason to believe, that in some of the Departments a great deal of work has been done this Session after hours in the way of preparing papers which have been asked for by the House. I know that this has been particularly the case in one of the Departments to which my attention has been called by parties connected with it, and that not by one clerk, but by a dozen clerks. When you have statistical work to be done, or work involving the compilation and the copying of figures, no stranger can do that work so well as the persons in the Department who are accustomed to do it, and I can see no reason why discretion should not be given to the Chief of a Department to employ these men after hours instead of engaging outside men, especially as many of these officers have great difficulty in keeping up their increasing families on their salaries. If help is to be employed, the Minister should be allowed to employ the public servants to perform that work; and I am sure they do not get too well paid for anything they do. I know my hon. friend would not willingly do any injustice to any of the public servants, or to any of the Ministers, in the inferences that may be drawn from his remarks, and I am sure if he were informed on this point, he would know that better service can be performed by those gentlemen than by any outside persons.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I do not think the Government employés are overworked—beginning at ten o'clock in the morning and working till about a quarter to four, with an hour for lunch. Moreover, I think the time of the Government employés should be devoted exclusively to their Government duties; and if they have any time to spare, I do not think it should be employed in any other work. In the present instance, I have my doubts as to the value of the work for which the Government pays so bountifully. I can say that the time of Mr. Dionne has not been entirely occupied in his office, or compiling that work, for I recollect very well that, during election times, I had the pleasure of meeting that gentleman in my county. He had plenty of time to spare for electioneering. I remember that that gentleman turned me out of my room one evening. He took my bed one evening.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He did not take your seat.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Perhaps he would have filled it more satisfactorily for the hon. gentleman than I do. He went from my county to other counties; and he had time to go on an election tour, not only himself, but his brother also. If that gentleman found so much time to devote to the interest of the Government, I am not at all surprised that at this late hour he should receive a little salary for the work he did.

Mr. BLAKE. I cannot agree with the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell) in the view he takes, and