

Mr. LANDERKIN. I think the suggestion that the Votes and Proceedings should be sent to the Mechanics' Institutes, is worthy of consideration by the House, for I do not know of any means by which so many people could be placed in possession of the reports and proceedings of this House at so little cost. Almost every class of the community belong to the Mechanics' Institutes. You will find in every Mechanics' Institute throughout the country, merchants, mechanics, farmers and all other classes of people, among the members, and if you send these documents to them, they will have an opportunity of seeing and reading them. A Mechanics' Institute, in fact, without these reports, is not a properly equipped institution. The hon. First Minister says the expense of sending out these reports is considerable. It is true, a very large volume, consisting of the report of the Committee on the operation of the Tariff, was sent out, and there are many people who think that the expenditure upon that was ill-judged and ill-advised. I gave some copies of that report to some of the farmers in the riding I represent. I saw one of them afterwards, and asked him how he liked it. He said he found it very useful to light his fire with, and he thought he had enough left to last him all winter. I think the expenditure for sending out that vast edition was uncalled for and unnecessary; but I think the House will see the propriety of sending these sessional papers and reports to the Mechanics' Institutes throughout the country. The expenditure for that purpose will only be a drop in the bucket, and it will place the reports and Debates of this House under the supervision of a large number of people, who will value them very highly, coming from so intelligent, wise, and important an assembly as this. The present system of giving them to this one and that one does not commend itself to my judgment as being so beneficial as the one suggested by the hon. member for South Leeds, which I heartily approve of. Now, I hope this matter will be considered by the Government, and that unnecessary reports may not be printed and the amount thus saved expended in furnishing the Mechanics' Institutes throughout the country with one copy of *Hansard* as it is issued from day to day, and also with a copy of the various Sessional Papers.

Mr. FERGUSON (Leeds). I think the Government must see the propriety of the suggestion I made, that these papers should be sent to the Mechanics' Institutes and to the people of the country as liberally as possible. I hope my constituents will preserve and read them, as they always do. All my constituents can read, and I do not think any of them will convert these reports into fuel purposes.

Mr. KIRK. It has been said that the report of the Select Committee on the operation of the Tariff, which was circulated so liberally throughout the country last year, is of very little value. That is my opinion also. A list of questions were sent out to be answered. If these questions had been sent to the proper persons, I dare say the answers would have been valuable; but if they were sent in every county to the same class of people, as they were in my county, I do not think, as a rule, the answers are worth much. This report, I am told, cost \$10,000. My opinion is, that if it did, it was \$10,000 thrown away. I find that six persons in my county answered these questions: and who are they? The questions were for the purpose of ascertaining the operation of the Tariff on the agricultural interests of the country; and those who answered them in my county were fishermen and mechanics, not one of whom, except one, has ever bought an agricultural implement larger than a hand-hoe or a hand-rake: and yet people are expected to take their information with regard to the operation of the Tariff on the agricultural interests, from these people. Only one farmer answered these questions at all, and that man says that the effect of the operation of the Tariff has been to drive

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people out of the country, and that if they go away as fast as they have done for the last year or two, there will be none left to answer the questions, and therefore, they need not send any to be answered. These are the kind of answers we get. One of the questions was, "What changes, if any, are required to make agriculture a more profitable and desirable occupation?" One man, I notice says, "A slight increase of the duty on pork; that is all that is necessary." Another man says, "The National Policy is a humbug." Another says, "We want free corn, free meal, free flour, free coal, and free salt." Some others say it is only necessary to keep Sir John A. Macdonald in power, as he knows all about it—what he does not know about the Tariff is not worth knowing.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Can any hon. gentleman say that that report is valueless?

Mr. KIRK. Another man says, "Our children and our children's children will respect and bless the names of Macdonald, Tupper, and Tilley." Another man says, "All that is necessary to make the agricultural interests prosperous, and to complete the National Policy, is to turn out all the Grit officers and put Conservatives in their places." These are the answers to the questions, and this book was so valuable that it was necessary to spend \$10,000 to furnish the people with the answers given.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the instances given by the hon. member for Guysboro' (Mr. Kirk), do not fairly show the character of these answers. I know that in my part of the country we were instructed to send these questions to the presidents and vice-presidents of agricultural societies, to reeves and deputy-reeves, to councillors of counties, and to ten of the most important farmers of each municipality. That instruction was fairly carried out, in so far as my constituency is concerned. Neither reeves nor the presidents of agricultural societies are of one political persuasion; and the answers came from a class of people supposed to be acquainted with the agricultural interests of the county. I do not wonder that the hon. member for Guysboro' asserts that the report is of no use, because he says the answers came from a class of men in whom he had no confidence. Well, who, in his opinion, would be the right class? The class of men who gave the opinion, as one man did, that all that was necessary was to turn the present Government out of power. I presume there are agriculturists down there following the mixed pursuits of fishing and farming, and the one in question may have distinguished himself as a farmer by buying some agricultural implements more expensive than a hoe or a rake. If that be the experience coming from the county of Guysboro', it is not the experience of the agricultural Province of Ontario. We consider the reports from there are very valuable and they come from a source that is respected by most hon. gentlemen of this House who know anything about the Province of Ontario.

Mr. KIRK. So far as Guysboro' is concerned, we have farmers there who would be able to answer very satisfactorily questions about farming, but the questions were not sent to farmers but to mechanics and others. But one farmer has answered the questions at all. The answers I repeated are from farmers from Ontario. I gave but one answer from the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. TROW. I think myself that the report is useless expenditure. In the first place, the understanding of the Committee was that the report of the Committee itself, without the evidence, should be made. Being a member of that Committee, I took considerable interest in the examination of witnesses myself, with my hon. friends from Wentworth and Iberville. I disapproved of the action taken by the members of the Opposition at the time, having had no