

"Dillon is without means of any consequence—with an aged mother wholly, and two sisters partially, depending upon him. He has been a kind son and brother, sober, clever, well educated, faithful and most industrious in the discharge of his duties.

"You will remember that Dillon had charge of the dry room. There all the prison clothing was dried in winter and on wet days in summer. And until we got a centrifugal wringer, which wrings the water out of the clothes more thoroughly before they are taken to the dry room the atmosphere was invariably very moist and almost always offensive. The steam dyeing closets recently introduced are a great improvement, but they came too late for poor Dillon's benefit. Dillon's duty was arduous, but he was so correct and methodical, keeping the convicts bedding, shirts, socks, &c, in good order, that there was little room for complaint. And I felt much relieved to know that I had an officer in that department who could not be humbugged by the convicts, and who had a place for everything and everything in its place. But I have no doubt that doing duty in the dry room so constantly had an injurious effect upon Dillon's eyes, as well as upon his general health.

"Jeremiah Dillon was appointed guard at this Penitentiary on 1st January, 1871, and in addition was appointed assistant school-teacher on 26th September, 1873. Making his salary from that date about \$550 per annum, out of this he has saved a little, which he has invested in two little houses. In one of these he lives, and the rent from the other is a very small and precarious pittance.

"In his present condition Dillon is not able to take care of himself, hence his case is most pitiable. I have not yet struck his name from the guards' pay list, and I propose continuing him on it till 30th June, if not otherwise ordered.

"Dillon is most anxious that the Government would allow him a small annuity during his life, or failing that, two years' salary as a gratuity. The annuity, however, would be most acceptable.

"With this brief statement I leave the matter in the hands of the Department, hoping that Dillon's case will receive most favorable consideration. It may be fairly made exceptional, as such another case may not occur again in twenty-five years.

338. House of Commons—To meet amount required to pay L. J. Piteau, indemnification for loss of appointment as Assistant French Translator, 1878 \$383.53

Mr. BLAKE. Would the hon. Minister explain this item?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The case is this: Mr. Piteau was a sessional translator previous to 1878. He claims three months salary and travelling expenses on account of having been relieved from his position as permanent French translator, to which he was appointed on 2nd December, 1878. He had been officially informed of his appointment by Mr. Anglin, as Speaker, after the Elections of 1878, and his appointment was to begin on 1st December, at a salary of \$1,400. He accordingly reported himself to the Clerk of the House, Mr. Patrick, and was informed that the appointment could not be recognized. Mr. Piteau was not permitted to enter on his official duties. He had been for several years previously employed as a sessional translator, and discharged his duties satisfactorily. Now he demands three months salary, \$350, and \$33.60 as travelling expenses to and from his home at Somerset, Megantic, Province of Quebec. This gentleman having been so informed by Mr. Anglin, thought the appointment would be maintained, and did not take any other employment.

Mr. BLAKE. Who took his position?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I do not know.

Mr. LAURIER. Would the hon. Minister inform me whether it is intended to apply the same rule to Mr. Brossoit, who was also appointed by Mr. Anglin as a permanent French translator, and who never was permitted to perform his duties?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Of that gentleman I know nothing. This case was brought before us, and is the only one.

Mr. CASGRAIN. What is the date of Mr. Piteau's claim?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. His claim came before us during the last five or six months.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I supposed so.

Mr. LAURIER. There is no reason whatever why, if this rule should apply to Mr. Piteau's case, it should not
Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

apply to that of Mr. Brossoit. Two vacancies occurred in the French translators' office: one was that of the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Tassé), who retired to contest Ottawa, and the other was that of Mr. David, who also resigned to be a candidate in the Elections of 1878. One was elected and the other had not that good fortune. Mr. Anglin, thinking he would be Speaker, and acting in that capacity, appointed two gentlemen to fill the vacancy, namely, Mr. Piteau and Mr. Brossoit. Neither of those gentlemen was allowed to perform their duties, and their places were given to some other parties, whose names I do not now remember. Since that time Mr. Piteau—I cannot speak positively, but I am under the impression—remonstrated time and again at his dismissal. His claim has not been recognized until this year, and of late Mr. Piteau has changed his politics, and last year worked for the hon. member for Megantic. Whether this has had any effect on the case I do not know.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am informed by my hon. colleagues and hon. members round me that the claim was made before that period. The case came before me during the last six months. As regards the politics of Mr. Piteau, all I know is that the last time I knew anything about him he was working hard against me, and, therefore, I cannot be supposed to be partial; but I thought this was a case in which the gentleman was entitled to indemnification. Mr. Brossoit's case, we are bound to consider when it comes before us, and we will have then to decide whether he is entitled to indemnification or not.

Mr. LAURIER. He is still an unrepentant sinner; but there is more joy over the repentance of one sinner than over dozens who have never politically sinned. Mr. Piteau's claim had been several years before the Government, and he always considered he had been harshly treated. The Minister says this was only during the last four or five months brought to his consideration—I suppose that he means favorable consideration.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Perhaps so. I think, however, that the word "favorable" might be omitted by the hon. gentleman. When I stated that it had not come under my notice, of course, I meant exactly what I said. I was not aware of the claim until there was question of the Order in Council.

340. Immigration,—Victoria, B.C., Agent, &c..... \$1,500.00

Mr. POPE. This is a new agency, and the item explains itself. We are trying to induce emigration from the Old Country to British Columbia, and we succeeded slightly last year in doing so. We hope to be able to do more, and we are offering inducements in this relation.

Mr. BLAKE. Hitherto there has been no organized arrangement in this relation?

Mr. POPE. No; none at all.

341. Quarantine—Sydney, N.S.—Inspecting Physician, &c..... \$1,400.00

Mr. POPE. This is also a new item. Sydney is a very important shipping place, and, perhaps, as many ships call there as at any other port in Nova Scotia, from what I hear. We found it necessary to give this very small sum to provide for an officer to look after this place.

Mr. BLAKE. It is true, of course, that this is a very important port of call, and no doubt there has also been a considerable increase in its traffic, and in the number of ships coaling there. Has there been no organization of any kind up to this time? And will the hon. gentleman state, not the number of vessels that came there simply to coal, but the number which took in or discharged cargoes during the year?

Mr. POPE. I cannot do so.