

to Tory laborers, and many other laborers were refused employment. The first part of the work was given to a stevedore named Power; I know him very well. Some time afterwards he disturbed a meeting held by the Liberals of Quebec. There is not one man in charge of any part of that job who understands the business. I know all those contractors, and they never would have taken the contracts if they had not obtained them at extravagant prices.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. With regard to not advertising for tenders, the architect of the city of Quebec wrote to say that the work should be commenced immediately, and it could not be delayed. I sent my clerk down to hurry matters as much as possible, and tenders were asked from a number of contractors. The hon. gentleman says that merely Tory laborers were employed. If that had been the case, I would have been following the example set by hon. gentlemen opposite when in power. We all remember that on the work of the fortifications, it was necessary that every man should carry a certificate in order to get employment from the Liberal contractors engaged in that work. But I deny that that system was followed in this case. The hon. gentleman, who must know the population of Quebec, must have forgotten that some of the men employed there were active supporters of the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Laurier). The hon. gentleman cannot say that any discrimination was made between the men who came to ask for employment. Of course, everybody could not be employed, as only a certain number were required. The hon. gentleman says the prices paid were very much more than the prices paid by the corporation. The hon. gentleman knows that it is impossible to decide from other contracts what is a fair price for work of that kind. I speak from reports which have been made to me when I say that that excavation was one of the most difficult that could have been undertaken in Quebec. Knowing Quebec as I do, I cannot understand how the excavation could be other than rock excavation, from the point at which it starts in the Grande Allée to the citadel, and when it gets into the citadel the hon. gentleman knows that there is nothing but rock there. I have heard men, competent to express an opinion, say that the contracts were let at lower rates than it was possible to make any money from. Tenders were obtained, and the lowest tender was in every case accepted. It is impossible for us to advertise in the newspapers, but we sent around and got several contractors to tender. As to Mr. Power, he may be a stevedore, but he has already carried out several contracts in Quebec, and the fact of his being a stevedore need not prevent a man being useful in other walks in life. In so far as Mr. Power is concerned, he carried out his contract very successfully.

Mr. LANGELIER. It could not have taken more time to advertise in the newspapers than to send letters to those who got the contracts, and the Government, in writing, should have written to contractors who are in the habit of doing that work, and not to people who are not. Three jobbers were engaged. One is a stevedore, who had never, to my knowledge, done work of that kind before. No one would think of entrusting the excavation of rock to a man who is in the habit of loading ships. The other is a carter. Who would apply to a carter, when he has no time to advertise, instead of to a contractor? I am not surprised at all that the work should cost so much. The hon. gentleman said that laborers from Quebec East had been employed on the work, but I can tell him that there was nearly a riot over this. About 100 laborers had collected near the works, and complained that it was an outrage on them that men should have been taken from the hon. gentleman's county, outside the city, to do the work, while people within the city were left without employment. I asked them why they were not employed,

and they said they had to get certificates from Mr. Bossé or Mr. McGreevy or somebody else, but not one of them was told to get a certificate from me, although I was the mayor.

Mr. BLAKE. My hon. friend is rather unreasonable. He has not taken into question the circumstance that two operations were engaged in by the Government, two drainage operations, one in the citadel and one in the Treasury.

Mr. MITCHELL. I am glad this explanation has been made by the hon. Minister. I understood this work was given in order to allay, in some degree, the Riel agitation in Quebec, and I am glad that it was nothing of the kind.

Militia Contingencies..... \$6,222 20

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The deputy Adjutant General is Colonel Denison, of Toronto, and the Brigade Major Colonel Milsom. Both officers have been for a long period in the service, and fulfilled their duty with great credit to the country and themselves. They had been engaged for a period of five years, and were not to expect any gratuity on retiring, but they had rendered such good service that we decided to allow them these sums: \$2,400 for the Deputy Adjutant General and \$2,400 for the Brigade Major.

Mr. MULOCK. I do not object to this item; on the contrary, in my opinion, it is not large enough. Colonel Milsom was an officer in the regulars, who was induced to leave the service and enter ours. I speak now from information I have received from a friend of mine who got it from Mrs. Milsom. I am not acquainted personally with either Colonel or Mrs. Milsom. From enquiries, I find it is correct that Colonel Milsom was in the regular service, and was induced to leave it, I think, by the Province of Nova Scotia; that he entered the Canadian service, and is now sixty-five years of age; that he has not a penny in the world beyond what is proposed to be given him here; that he has a family depending on him, and this proposed gratuity will realise exactly one shilling a day. It would not be to the honor of this country to turn this man out a pauper on the charity of the people. In two years he must starve or go to the poor house. He has no calling or capacity for doing anything. What is to become of him? I presume it is too late to improve this matter now, but I hope that next Session it will be again considered.

Mr. BLAKE. I am sorry I cannot agree with my hon. friend from North York (Mr. Mulock). This officer was appointed on certain conditions, and those conditions he understood and accepted. At the end of the five years he was to have no claim of any kind. Having no claim, the Minister now offers to give him \$2,400. I must say I think that is very liberal treatment.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is, if the gentleman was appointed for the term of five years, as my hon. friend says; is that the case?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I thought I could make a distinction in this case, because Colonel Milsom entered the service before the Order in Council was passed appointing these men for five years only, and probably looked upon his appointment as permanent when he joined the service, and I also considered the services he has rendered and the long period of time he had served the country.

Mr. MULOCK. How many years has he been in the service?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I think some thirty years.

Mr. BLAKE. Was he paid all the time?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yes.