

"Copy of agreement signed by W. R. Bell and John Stewart, dated May 21st, 1885.

"This memo. of agreement between W. R. Bell and John Stewart is made in good faith and on the honor of each, that out of the contract now existing in the name of John Stewart for transport, W. R. Bell to have one-half profits or losses; that out of the contract now existing in the name of Bell & Lewis for same work, but at an increased price, J. Stewart to have one-quarter interest in profits.

"W. R. BELL.  
"JOHN STEWART."

"May 21st, 1885.

"I, Thomas Henry Gilmour, of the city of Winnipeg, notary public do hereby certify that the above written copy of agreement is a true, and exact copy of the original memorandum of agreement of which it purports to be a copy, and that the above was copied by me from the original memo. of agreement on the 24th day of August, A.D. 1885.

"T. H. GILMOUR,  
"Notary Public for Manitoba."

[SEAL.]

That is the connection of this W. R. Bell with the transport service of the North-West; but there is this peculiarity in this case, that the undertaking of the Government with the Hudson Bay Company was of that loose kind, that until the 21st May, any certificate of whatever character which represented that company, from any men of the force whatever, was accepted and the account paid; and the result is, that while the Commission state in their report that they have examined something like \$3,000,000 worth of accounts, the larger portion of that amount appears already, in the statement submitted to the House, as paid, and other sums, equal to that demanded from Bell, are demanded from other parties by the Commission on the re-examination of the accounts. What use is there in making those demands, when the money is paid? The arrangement made with the Hudson Bay Company shows the entire incapacity of the Militia Department for undertaking a service which the whole country was led to believe had been undertaken with the greatest exactitude, precision and satisfaction to all concerned, and was going to cover the Militia Department in particular with a halo of glory. In reference to the waste of supplies, Mr. James Anderson, who appears himself to be drawing pay as a commissariat officer makes this statement that "he went up to the front and on return reported to Captain Swinford at the base that everything was going to rack and ruin; hay wasted; in fact in some of the stations you could walk over your boots in oats." I stated the other day that the amount of supplies which had been furnished to the forces in the North-West during the rebellion was out of proportion to what the men could reasonably consume. I stated that the quantity of tea supplies equalled the allowance for between 41,000 and 42,000 men for ninety days, and I base my statement on the accounts submitted for payment which amounted to 59,723 lbs. This is at the usual allowance, as appeared in "General Orders", namely one quarter of one ounce of tea per man per diem. Yet there were only 4,756 men under arms in the North-West. The same result is apparent with regard to the sugar supply, the meat supply and the bread supply. I have a statement of these supplies, which I extracted from the Public Accounts and have gone over them with a good deal of care, in order to satisfy myself thoroughly in reference to them. Not only was the supply excessive but the prices in many instances were ridiculously large for the kind of supplies furnished. The arrangements with the Hudson Bay Company, under the blanket agreement with the Government, was that they the company, should supply the provisions at ordinary wholesale prices, but even in Winnipeg they charge the exorbitant price of 2 cents a lb. for salt. For rice at Edmonton 20 cents per lb. were paid, and for bacon 25 cents per lb. Other supplies are charged in proportion. I find besides the most surprising fact that there was supplied to the force something like 800 lbs. of baking powder at a cost of \$750. I find the entire amount drawn in these ways, for the 30th June, 1885, by the Hudson Bay Company for all supplies, was \$291,238, and to the 15th March, 1886, in addition, \$114,823, or a total expenditure on supplies furnished by Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex).

the Hudson Bay Company alone of \$406,000. The Government also paid to the Hudson Bay Company, on accounts contracted by the force while on service, \$1,311,303, and a commission on those last named of \$65,654, a total to Hudson Bay Company of \$1,788,525. These were paid, in the way I stated, on the blanket agreement between the Hudson Bay Company and the Government. This resulted in all sorts of accounts appearing as having been passed by that company, accounts that are entirely against the rules and regulations that govern the Militia Department. We have no justification whatever for paying those accounts further than that certain individuals went to the company and purchased supplies. What right had the major general commanding the forces, for instance, any more than anyone under him, to purchase supplies on his own account and charge them to the Government? If special supplies were wanted by a private in the force he had to pay for them himself. He was furnished with a kit, and had to be satisfied with that, but the major general and the staff officers could procure, at the expense of the Government, whatever they could find in the neighborhood in which they happened to be which they thought it would suit them to purchase. I find that Major T. Charles Watson, who, I believe, is a temporary clerk in one of the Departments, was sent to Yorktown in the North-West Territories, and given a commission to form a company there; and, in addition to drawing a very handsome allowance as pay, has had paid for him an allowance nearly equal to one-half the entire amount that every other subordinate in the Yorktown volunteer company received for his services. He received a forage cap \$2, a pair of trowsers \$6, a pair of boots \$6, and an overcoat \$5. This is a man who at the same period, as a temporary clerk, has drawn \$2.50 a day. I find that the Minister himself has added to the immense charge for cab-hire in his Department \$271 in connection with the North-West rebellion, and \$470 for travelling expenses. I hope that was not the least efficient means resorted to in order to suppress the rebellion. There was a report current in regard to looting in the North-West. I only give such information as I have, but there was a rumor that a good many supplies that were seized were, under the instruction of the major general and some of the officers serving under him, taken to the eastern Provinces, and I question very much if some of the losses embraced in this vote are not losses that were sustained in that way. The Ten Commandments will not budge in a case like this, and stealing will continue stealing whether by a major general or by any of his forces or any one else; and this country ought not to be called upon to pay losses until it is ascertained how they occurred. It is a matter of current rumor that horses came back from that country in a most mysterious way, and, if the First Minister is going to make enquiry into the condition of the Indians, it is only due to the people that enquiries of an equally drastic character should be made in this matter. There are some of the details which I have given that admit of no question. There is no doubt that there was waste and extravagance and carelessness there, and I submit that I am justified in having brought this matter to the attention of the committee, even at this late hour of the Session.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I propose for a few moments to say a few words with reference to the transactions to which the hon. gentleman has referred, and I do so on my personal responsibility and a personal witness, and not on a statement made by an anonymous writer. For nearly three months I was on the principal route of transport between the railway and the Saskatchewan, a route on which 1,300 teams were passing continually up and down. It was my official duty, and I made it my business as a member of this House, to make note of everything that went on; and, so