

correct, but the hon. gentleman should add that the number of surveys for his \$14,000 were eleven; for my \$16,000, thirteen; and now that the system has been perfected, for \$19,000, I had forty-four surveys. The surveys in the time of the hon. gentleman cost \$1,337 each, while they now cost \$449 each.

Mr. MACKENZIE. But one survey may be equal to a dozen, and no doubt in this case it is so.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. I am glad to hear the hon. member for Lambton complain of the dismissal of public servants without just cause; but I do not think he has found an example in the case of Mr. Kingsford. The hon. Minister of Public Works has given a very satisfactory reason for the removal of that officer—an economic reason; he has shown that he has saved public money. But the hon. member for Lambton forgets that he himself dismissed a public servant for the simple reason that he would not support the hon. member for Centre Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright) on a certain occasion—I refer to the case of Dr. Strange—and re-appointed an officer to replace him without any trial or enquiry. He dismissed him in a manner most obnoxious to a volunteer officer—by stating that Her Majesty had no longer need for his services. I think it does not lie in the mouth of the hon. member for Lambton to make this complaint against the hon. Minister of Public Works.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. I doubt whether any particular service will be done in the passage of the Estimates by bringing up a transaction five years old. But I take occasion to say that Dr. Strange was dismissed for the grossest possible violation of his duty, he being a public officer in the pay of the Government and deliberately electioneering in Kingston.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. No.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Yes; in favor of the present Premier and against the other candidate, and he was warned repeatedly that if he, as a Government officer, so interfered in elections, he would be dismissed. He was most righteously dismissed.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. Minister of Public Works says he was not at all influenced in his conduct towards Mr. Kingsford by any political considerations. I think Mr. Kingsford is under the impression that the hon. gentleman was influenced by certain charges made against Mr. Kingsford in connection with some things that happened at Rimouski. I may say also that the person who opposed me at the last election accused Mr. Kingsford of interfering in the political contest in Bothwell. For that accusation there was not the shadow of foundation. I never discussed politics with Mr. Kingsford for ten minutes in my life, and only then to learn that his sympathies were not with us, but with hon. gentlemen opposite. But I never supposed for a moment, that Mr. Kingsford was in the smallest degree influenced politically in the discharge of his duties as an engineer. The whole accusation made against him in my constituency was that, not long before the election, he was passing through Morrisburgh, and telegraphed to the Custom house officer, who is himself not a politician, asking him to see him while the train was passing. I do not think he was off the train for five minutes, and I do not think any person saw him but Mr. Duff, the Custom house officer.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Any accusation which may have been made against Mr. Kingsford for anything he may have said or done previous to our coming into office was not noticed by me. We never reproached him or any other officer for taking part in any election before we came into office; but if these officers while we are in office, should go and canvass against the Government, that would be taken notice of.

Mr. MILLS. Or for them.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I have no doubt that would be a much more menial offence, but one unlikely to occur.

238. To reimburse Mr. G. A. Brown the amount contained in a bag of silver, stolen from a valise during his journey from St. John, N. B., to Cape Breton, for the purpose of making payments in connection with Cow Bay Breakwater and Gabarus Harbor..... \$150 00

Mr. LANGEVIN. This officer, I am informed by the head officers of my department—I do not know him at all—has always been a most deserving man. He has frequently, as paymaster, had large sums of money entrusted to him. On this occasion he was robbed of his bag containing \$150, and in order that there might be no delay in paying the men, he replaced it from his own personal funds. In a letter addressed to the department, he asks, on account of the precautions he has always taken, not to be held responsible for the loss.

245. Additional amount required for laying of cable on New Sub-marine Cable Route between Vancouver Island and mainland via Nanaimo and Point Grey.....\$1,500 00

Mr. MACKENZIE. I do not object to the item, but I understood last Session the Government would not send Mr. Gisborne home to buy the cable, but order it by letter or telegram.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Such was the intention, but on enquiry we found it advisable, in the public interest, that the officer should go to England in person, and the result justified our decision. The cable was purchased at a much lower rate than it could otherwise have been, and having been personally selected by the officer who visited the stocks of the best houses, its quality is guaranteed. It has been laid down in the Gulf from one point to another and has worked admirably.

242. Amount required to complete payment for mail service between Victoria, B.O., and San Francisco..... \$4,760 00

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. What is this additional amount required for?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I think to pay for the service during the gap period between the old and new contracts.

243. Amount required to cover expenses connected with the bringing out of the screw corvette "Charybdis" \$5,000 00

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. What is the total amount expended on this vessel up to date? Is this the first vote asked for?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is the first vote asked for; but it is proposed to reduce it to \$5,000, by sailing the vessel across the ocean in summer with a company of sailors instead of with a lot of engineers and other expensive officers. I think there has been £400 expended in this vessel.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Is this a new departure? What is the intention of the Government? Is this to be the foundation of a fleet? We had a fleet before in the days of Minister of Marine Mitchell, with which we were to wage war against the Yankees. Is this to be such a war vessel?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. She is to be a training ship.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Whom are you going to train?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Young Canadians who desire to embrace a nautical life or enter the merchant marine.