

"If the superintendent devotes himself to the actual work of his office, coming in contact with the men and work two or three times per week (for doing which he now receives an allowance of \$300 per annum for horse hire), the 'overseers' could confine themselves to their legitimate duties on the canal, and two would be sufficient on the 'new,' and one on the 'old' canal.

"And as evidence that I am correct in so stating, I would call attention to the fact that J. G. Demare, 'overseer' of No. 1 Division, which is one of the most important, has been put in general charge of the whole of the 'new' canal, in addition, and attends to both satisfactorily. In his 'second' office he is doing what the superintendent should do personally."

This is news to me, though I live along the canal, and, I believe, it is news to every man, woman and child in the country. This man, Demare, has forced himself, because he is a pet of Mr. Ellis', to think that he has charge over the canal; but, when the commissioner reports this to the House, he states what is not correct. He is the man of whom I spoke the other day as being so skilful and energetic in his own interests. Mr. Page said, in the witness stand, that Mr. Demare was skilful and energetic. I think I explained to the House the other day how skilled and energetic he was, and I am not going to trouble hon. gentlemen by repeating it to-day. When this document is laid before the House I shall some day consider the whole report—commissioner, officials and all. I shall do so, if it takes two days, or a week. I am willing to devote my time to it, in the interests of the country, until those barnacles are all scraped from the bottom of the ship.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—You will not succeed.

HON. MR. MCCALLUM—I will; because, I do not take up a cause until I am satisfied that it is a good one. Over two years ago I brought this matter to the notice of the House and of the Government.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—You will not succeed.

HON. MR. MCCALLUM—I believe I shall succeed. I am satisfied that the Government is anxious to do only what is right in this business, and that they will make those people "walk the plank."

"There are too many foremen. The report referred to gives sixteen. Some of these now in the employ of the canal are not competent for the duties of such a position. The evidence disclosed a want of definite duties to these men. One-half the number,

composed of active, energetic men, suited to act in that capacity with well-defined duties, would be more effective for the purposes for which they are employed, in my opinion, than the present staff. It was difficult in the evidence given to fix blame for irregularities, for the reason that the work of the foremen clashed with each other, and responsibility was easily shifted on to other shoulders."

I fix the responsibility where it ought to be, on behalf of the people of this country. I put it on the right shoulders, and if the Government will publish the evidence taken at that enquiry every man in the Dominion will see that I put the responsibility on the right shoulders. I said the other day, from my place in this Chamber, that I hoped no other public work in this country is conducted in the way the Welland Canal has been, and I gave the names of the parties who comprise a ring formed, not for the good of the country, but for their own individual benefit:

"The harbor-masters have very light duties to perform, which can be readily done by the overseers at each end of the canal and not interfere with their present duties, providing they are not required to leave their work and wait on the superintendent at the canal office, where they are now frequently kept for hours, often, I think, needlessly."

The commissioner gives his opinion of harbor-masters. I differ from him there. Harbor-masters should be sailors, and should know how to handle vessels. A man may do very well as a foreman on the canal, and know nothing of how to handle a vessel in the harbor. There is another way that can be done away with, and that is by not imposing the duties of harbor-master on the overseer of the canal:

"The storekeeper's office, as now carried out, is no use to the service, either for the work performed or as a check. He has only a portion of the supplies under his charge. He should either have full charge, if such an office is decided necessary, or the office abolished."

He is the gentleman that I said the other day was of as much use on the canal as a fifth wheel is to a coach. You can see that the commissioner is coming down in his report. If the Government will get him to make one or two more reports he will come down to the evidence, and I have not the slightest doubt if they pay him he will make one or two more. He is coming down now. You will see that the last one is coming more to what I stated in the House, and if they pay him for one or two more he will agree with me exactly.

HON. MR. MCINNIS (B.C.)—How much will it require?