

minister should do is to answer them. If he has not the information in his possession he can promise to bring it down, at a later date, and so far as I am concerned it will satisfy me.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. There is nothing to warrant the conclusion that we on this side of the House have accorded anything but the most courteous treatment to gentlemen opposite. The Minister of Customs has told the committee that there is uncertainty as to this expenditure, which can only be cleared up with time and experience as the business of the department proceeds. He has also told us that the only guide as to future expenditure is the experience furnished by the past, and hon. gentlemen have got in their hands the record of past expenditure. That is the only guide we have. Under these circumstances, nothing can be gained in persisting in this contention. I may point out that long before a single item was passed an adjournment was asked for, and most of the time this evening has been spent in asking for an adjournment.

Mr. BLAIN. How much of this was spent last year for uniforms?

Mr. FIELDING. \$2,500.

Mr. BLAIN. And how much will be spent this year for the same?

Mr. FIELDING. It is estimated that the expenditure will be about the same.

Mr. BLAIN. Are they purchased by tender?

Mr. FIELDING. An allowance of \$8 is given each officer and they purchase for themselves.

Mr. BLAIN. What officers wear these uniforms?

Mr. FIELDING. Landing waiters attending on the arrival of vessels and officers examining baggage at the principal stations.

Mr. SPROULE. The Postmaster General has stated that no such questions were ever before asked in this House, and no such answers given as we desire. I beg to refer the Postmaster General to the 'Hansard' of 1884, when Sir Mackenzie Bowell was Minister of Customs, and there it will be found that in reply to Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Mackenzie Bowell went into the most minute details as to the services for which a vote of \$35,430 would be expended. He gave full explanations as to the additional number of employees and their classes, where they were to be employed, and all other particulars. And yet the Postmaster General says he never heard of such information being asked for in this House before. If I went through the various items I could show him that the same principle has been invariably carried out.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. By the analysis of the expenditure which I have had made for the last fiscal year I find that there was expended some \$46,000 under the following heads: transfer officers, \$7,927.50; legal expenses, \$264; advertising, \$9.60; guarantee bonds, \$4,786.65; stationery, \$9,889.02; printing, \$17,500; uniforms, \$2,355.06; newspaper subscriptions, \$367.05; general account, \$2,983.25. The railways contributed, \$12,000 odd towards that expenditure, leaving the sum of \$34,000 odd of disbursements out of the Dominion treasury.

Mr. SPROULE. The Postmaster General has given the very information we have been trying to get for two hours.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. It is all in the Auditor General's Report.

Mr. SPROULE. It is not our duty to hunt up these items. The ministers should be ready to give us the information.

Some resolutions reported.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 2.55 a.m., Tuesday.