

The fact was—as every right-minded person would admit—the decision was certainly extraordinary; and if it were proved that the decision should have been different, he thought that justice should at any rate be done to persons who deserved it. He moved that the Committee be composed of Messrs. Galbraith, White (Renfrew), Wright (Pontiac), Archibald and the mover.

Mr. ROCHESTER supported the resolution. Some five or six individuals were directly interested in the matter. From what he knew and had seen, he thought that a Committee should be appointed; and if owing to the fact that the Session was on the point of closing, this request was not granted, he trusted that the Government would take this matter into consideration and ascertain whether justice had been done. The Government had an officer at Arn prior to take charge of the booms and slides and see that they were kept in proper repair; and from the evidence it would be seen that this official had not performed his duty on this occasion. This officer had been repeatedly warned that the boom would break, and also that the east wind—which had been blowing at the time for some days—had kept the logs of lumber so close to the head of the boom, that the timber could not be got away. He was told not to let down any more and, as far as the evidence went and they knew, this person paid a deaf ear to all these warnings. Further, he left the place and came to Ottawa, where he remained for two days before, and two or three days after the breaking of the boom, to which occurrence he paid little heed. He (Mr. Rochester) fancied that, if the circumstances had been different, the award of the arbitrators would not have been what it was. An election was in progress in the County, and the Chairman of the Board had repeatedly expressed himself strongly in favour of the Conservative candidate, Mr. O'Rielly. He did not hesitate to say that the Chairman had acted in a very partisan manner on that occasion, and political feeling was apparent throughout the entire proceedings.

Five or six of the persons examined

before the Arbitrators were friends of the present member for South Renfrew, and he had no hesitation in saying not only from what he had read of the evidence, but what he saw himself, it was turned into a political affair, and that was the consequence of the award being given as it was. The amount that was claimed was not much, and from what he could learn the claimants asked simply for what they had lost. Their losses direct and indirect would amount to \$14,000, whereas they had only claimed \$7,000. He did not see that there would be any necessity for appointing a Committee at this late period of the Session, but he trusted the Government would look into the matter, and they would find that right and justice had not been done to these people. He regarded it as the duty of the Government to see that justice was done them.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said this was a motion to obtain a select Committee for the purpose of reviewing the judicial decision of one of the bodies created by Parliament to adjudicate on certain matters. He explained that this question was submitted to the Dominion arbitrators some years ago, they rendered an adverse verdict, and as he was desirous of having justice done in this matter it was recommitted to the arbitrators, there being a change in the meantime in the Board. The arbitrators again came to the same decision and refused to reverse the verdict, the Chairman dissenting from the award. To ask for the appointment of the Committee under these circumstances was what they could scarcely assent to. If it were to become a practice in this House that a judicial decision should be referred to a Committee of Parliament with a view to its reversal or with a view to sustain it, such decisions in themselves would become a farce. While he had given every opportunity of justice being done, it was quite impossible that they could go any further in the matter. If there had been an injustice done, he regretted it very much, but there must be some mode of obtaining a settlement in such cases, and that mode of settlement having been resorted to, these cases could not be brought to Parliament, merely