

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If the officer demands it, of course, he is entitled to a courtmartial when charges are made against him, otherwise serious oppression might be perpetrated on gentlemen entering our service. They have their rights; and in the case, especially of a man who has served in the North-West, it would be proper, if he chose to demand a court martial it should be accorded him.

Indians—Grant to supplement Indian Fund..... \$34,638 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I take this opportunity of calling again the attention of the First Minister who is specially charged with it, to the fact that the salaries of Indian agents are altogether out of proportion to the relief afforded the Indians. Out of about \$5,000 in New Brunswick \$2,000 are for salaries, so that only \$3,000 may be said to reach the Indians. It did not appear, on the explanations given, that there was just ground for this great discrepancy that exists in the salaries, between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Indians are just as much scattered and there are just as many agents in the one Province as the other. Forty per cent. of salary on the pittance paid these people is an enormous commission.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The agents have other duties to do besides the disbursement of money. The salaries are not paid out of the moneys distributed to the Indians, but out of the Indian Management Fund.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am speaking of the salaries in this identical vote. You have charged New Brunswick \$1,876 for salaries and the total distributed is \$3,000.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am not able to explain the real reason why the salaries in one Province are greater than in another. The salaries are small, from \$25 to \$200, I suppose the hands are more scattered, but I cannot at this moment explain the details.

Commercial Agencies..... \$10,000 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Here also I wanted some sort of general idea of what you are going to do under this rather comprehensive title of commercial agencies. The sum asked from one aspect is rather small, but it is altogether too large to throw away.

Mr. McLELAN. It is proposed to select certain points at which we may appoint agents or pay parties residing there or familiar with the trade of that country, and employ them in endeavoring to work up a trade with the Dominion of Canada. Two or three points have been spoken of and commend themselves rather favorably to myself and to my colleagues. For instance, Australia has been named. There is a gentleman with whom I have had several interviews, Mr. Woods, who has a firm in Australia, and who is familiar with the manufactures of this country, and his brother has been resident in Australia for a long period and is thoroughly familiar with the trade in that country. Mr. Woods has persuaded me that a considerable amount of benefit can be done to the Dominion by the appointment of himself or some other person to work up a trade with the Dominion of Canada. It has been also proposed to employ a man during the Colonial Exhibition in London, to see the representatives of the various colonies there, and endeavor to effect sales or open trade with the various colonies. It has also been spoken of that we should send to some of the points in South America where there is a probability of trade being opened with the Dominion. I propose, as soon as Parliament is prorogued and I have got a little rest, to take this matter up and make a selection from the different points and the parties who have been represented as good for this business. Of course a great deal depends on the character of the man.

228

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I suppose no figure was named?

Mr. McLELAN. No. Mr. Woods talked as if it was not so much salary as some small compensation which would enable them to devote some of their time to it. I did not commit myself to taking him, but I was favorably impressed.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. We must judge by results. There is a good deal to be said *pro*, and there is a good deal to be said *con*. If it is merely in order to allow a few gentlemen to draw salaries my opinion is that our sister colonies are a good deal in the same position as ourselves. They are producers of raw materials. Possibly in regard to Australia exchanges may be effected with profit, but it is a long way off. I had occasion, when I was Finance Minister, just before leaving office, to make some enquiry into this subject, and I make this suggestion to the hon. gentleman. I am inclined to think that, particularly from the Maritime Provinces, there is a profitable trade awaiting us in connection with the Mediterranean, which has never been exploited as the French say, and I suggest that some attention might be paid to the Mediterranean trade.

Charges of Management..... \$184,224 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon gentleman agreed to give some definite information as to the very important question, what the Government are going to do about the very large amounts that are now being received. All the information I have received tends to show that this question has to be looked into, and, in the Maritime Provinces to which the hon. gentleman belongs, that it is a very important question, that the deposits in the banks which form, to a great extent, the trading material, the wage fund of the people employing labor, have been seriously depleted by the high rate paid by Government largely in excess of the current value of money. On two occasions the hon. gentleman promised to announce what the Government were going to do in that respect.

Mr. McLELAN. I am not sure that I said I would be able to announce what we were going to do, but I said it was under the consideration of the Government. There seemed to be perhaps well-founded complaints that the savings banks were being used by some parties, in the Lower Provinces more particularly, for the purposes of banking transactions. The amount is now limited to \$1,000 to be received from any one person. When these banks were instituted in 1871, depositors were allowed to deposit any amount, up to 1877. They were then limited by Order in Council to \$10,000. This continued up to the 25th November, 1880, when another Order in Council was passed limiting the amount to \$3,000. The large amounts which have been received and are held from individuals, in the Lower Provinces more particularly, of \$10,000, \$2,000 and \$15,000, were received as to the largest amounts previous to the first Order in Council, passed in 1877, restricting it to \$10,000. Up to 1880, various sums had been deposited up to \$10,000. Since 25th November of that year, they have been restricted to \$3,000. The question is under the consideration of the Government whether we shall further restrict them and place them on the same footing as the post office saving banks. What most requires attention, I think, is what the banks complain of, that the savings banks in the Lower Provinces are used for the purposes of exchange, to the detriment of the banking institutions. That is a question that will receive immediate attention, and it is perhaps desirable that that practice should be first dealt with, and then comes the question whether we should put them on the same footing as the post office savings banks as to restricting the amounts to be received from one individual in one year.