

where there is a will there is always a way. Look at the high offices in his Department, so lucrative, that directly there is a vacancy, lawgivers, legislators, ex-M.P.'s and members of both Chambers are very anxious to obtain and fill the position. There is a general scramble for such. Why not apply the pruning knife to these fat offices and make some reduction; or if this cannot be done, at least the Minister of Customs could apply the pruning knife to his own office, and find means then to cause justice to be done. Sir, I have waited more than a year for action to be taken, but the hon. the Minister of Customs is still in dream-land; I am afraid he will never wake up. I do not like to be continually taunted with the incapacity and lack of ability of any one member of the Government. I, as an independent member, generally support it; and I must admit I see vitality and activity in all the Departments, saving in that under the supervision of the hon. the Minister of Customs. I ask for this return so that the public may judge for themselves, and I respectfully request that the Government, as a Government, will counsel their honourable yet erring colleague, to act more wisely, more ably and more justly in the future.

MR. BOWELL: My hon. friend has scarcely represented the facts as they exist. With reference to the statement that some officers receive larger salaries than others in similar positions is correct. The late Government made appointments of landing-waiters, lockers, etc., at salaries from \$100 to \$200 per annum more than others received, who had been there a number of years. In regard to the officer my hon. friend refers to, and my statement that I had no money with which to increase his salary, I said further: that if I increased his salary it would necessitate, also, the increasing of the salary of some twenty or thirty other officials, who had been in the employ of the Government a longer period than the gentleman in question, who have the larger salaries. I do not now see my way clear, and I told him so, to recommend to my colleagues or the House, considering the financial condition of the country, a general increase of salary which would have to be done, if the question were opened. If equality in salaries were desired, either a general rise in salaries

would have to be made, which at the present time could not be justified, or the salaries, or those who receive the larger salaries, would have to be reduced, which, after all, would perhaps be the best course to pursue. It is all very well to demand increases of salaries, and then cry out for retrenchment and economy. To meet the views and wishes of all those who have asked for an increase of salary would require some \$20,000 or \$30,000 added to the Customs Estimates, a request I do not believe the House would agree to.

MR. BURPEE (St. John): Referring to the complaints made by the hon. member opposite, regarding the discrimination as to salaries of officers in the Customs, Toronto; I may say that, a few years ago, the Customs Department at Toronto was thoroughly reorganized upon the Inspector's report, and it was thought that if there was any part in the Dominion where the salaries seemed to be equally distributed, it seemed to be Toronto. The hon. Minister of Customs states that favours were granted to certain officers. I do not remember any particular cases, but that may be so, because it has been so ever since Confederation, and these may be old appointments, etc.; but in Toronto, particularly, I maintain that the salaries were more equally arranged than in any other city. It is possible that some of the officers having combined duties, such as lockers and landing-waiters, may get a little more than lockers alone or landing-waiters alone. I know that great care was taken to assimilate the salaries as near as possible, and I believe such will be found to be the case.

MR. JONES: I think the case under consideration is one of peculiar hardship, and my hon. friend has presented the facts connected with it in a clear and concise manner; and I am of opinion that when new men are placed over the heads of other men, without reason, that these cases should be taken into consideration, and the old officers restored to the position to which they are entitled.

Motion agreed to.

MONTREAL CUSTOMS' HARDWARE
VALUATOR.

MOTION FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. COURSOL, in moving for an