

Mr. COCKBURN. Yes, and that is more than some people have. However, that was all there was at that time. Well, he then decided to be very liberal with this money that had come as a windfall into his possession, and he drew out a cheque for \$39.90 in payment of early vegetables and choice fruits which had been sent to him by Mr. Roumillac, green grocer in Quebec. This was the next day after he had deposited the cheque, and the very same day the inevitable Ernest Pacaud appeared on the scene and claimed \$100. He left rejoicing with the \$100 in his pocket, all of it paid, in a manner, by those poor men down by the sea. Then, like an honest man, Mr. Mercier proceeded to do what a good many people are not ready to do, that is, to pay his rent, which was overdue, and he gave his cheque for \$75 for one month's rent. However, Mr. Mercier seems to have been a man who needed a little *détachement*: he had been brooding for a long time over the troubles and hard fate of these men, and probably with tears in his eyes he told his friends how careful he had been not to let the bank handle the money, or the company to handle the money, in case anything should be improperly spent. He was worn out by his emotions, and he felt the necessity of taking a little trip to New York. So he paid Mr. R. M. Stocking, out of this money, \$73.40 for a first-class passage to New York, as became the Premier of the Province of Quebec. It must be said for him, however, that he was not a man who was going to forget entirely his sad friends down by the sad sea waves: so he handed Chrysostôme Langelier a cheque for \$17,500 out of the \$28,500. They probably thought they might manage to pay debts amounting to \$28,500 out of \$17,500. These men had an astounding belief in their financial power, because we know that Premier Mercier, with a moderate income managed to live like a prince, and there was no reason why Pacaud might not be able by some wonderful stroke of financiering to pay debts even greater than \$28,564 with \$17,500. At all events, that was all Mr. Mercier gave him. He has no sooner handed his cheque and told that gentleman to go down and relieve the sufferings of the heart-broken people than Mr. Pacaud again came in and claimed his little share, and he received \$250. So much for the 26th and 27th day of the month. Now we come to the 28th. I find the account of Jean Barbeau, who had been doing some little repairs to some of the palaces belonging to Mr. Mercier. He was awarded \$170 as part payment of his account; while Mr. Chas. Langelier, who had so skilfully suggested the little arrangement of having a commissioner in the shape of his brother to pay these accounts, received \$500. The 29th day of the month is a little dark, inasmuch as the cheques are carefully made payable to bearer: one is given for \$1,000, another for \$50, another for \$26, and then, as Mr. Mercier was probably in New York, he found it necessary to have a little more money, and so he drew a couple of thousand for himself. As there is nothing mean about him, he handed to his brother on 5th December a cheque for \$600 out of this money, and then he generously pays an account that has been deferred for some little time of \$736. He meets an obligation in the bank of \$1,000; then he gives to Mr. Perry for furniture \$22, and there is a bill for the Garrison Club of Quebec of \$269.25. How much of that sum was spent in champagne of

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the finest brand and in cigars of the best quality to sustain the feelings of his friends, is not for me to say--I was not there: but I am not surprised that it required an expenditure of \$269.25 to solace Mr. Mercier and his friends in their afflicted condition. We know that sometimes, even among the best of men, a little drop of "cratur" or a glass of sparkling champagne has a peculiarly exhilarating effect and makes one forget in the meantime the troubles surrounding them. The day afterwards Mr. Mercier paid a bill to Mr. Pacaud--Mr. Mercier had got ahead of him at this time--but Mr. Pacaud got \$500 out of him that day, and on the same day E. Morency & Frères, picture frame makers, were paid \$15.50 for framing a print of perhaps pretty little Mrs. So-and-so--we will not give the name--but at all events that sum was paid for the picture frame. The Merchants Bank received \$190.40, and Mr. Mercier sent to New York a draft for \$500 to cover up his little expenses, in addition to \$2,000 drawn previously. Then comes a sum of money, \$1,200, for payment of a pair of horses, perhaps, of which I will not speak just now. Mr. J. C. Langelier, the commissioner, received a paltry \$200; but he was a great financier, and it is for us to determine what little percentage he might have made on the \$17,500, when gratitude urged these poor starving men to accept partial payment in full discharge of all their claims. It must be said for Mr. Mercier that there are some good points about him, for I find he gave his wife at one time \$125. Mr. Pacaud again comes up next day and claims \$500 more. Then another one of the family or perhaps the same member of the illustrious rifle brigade received \$818, the whole account being wound up with the payment of \$774.70, and \$1,000, leaving Mr. Mercier with a balance still somewhat in excess of the \$8.28 with which he started when he first seized money belonging to the Ontario Bank and concluded to devote it to these personal purposes. I think, in view of these circumstances, in view of what I have stated, in view of the fact that this House is intimately connected with this railway, that it released moneys on the understanding that these people were to be paid out of them, that Mr. Langelier gave the Bank of Ontario receipts and assurances that all these claims had been paid, that \$54,000 was paid to the Ontario Bank by the Dominion Government, it is our duty to enquire and ascertain if in very truth these workmen have received the wages which they are said to have received. I can only conclude by saying that a more miserable series of petty larcenies, a more wretched prostitution of office, a more disgraceful betrayal of a sacred trust, a more infamous robbery perpetrated under the guise of heartfelt sympathy for the poor and oppressed ones, has never yet been recorded in the annals of any civilized country, and it becomes hon. members of this House to see that signal punishment is meted out to those who have brought such foul disgrace upon our beloved country, and that these poor labourers and poor workmen who have been so infamously defrauded of their hard-earned wages should not be left to the tender mercies of hypocritical political adventurers.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I understand from the explanation which the hon. gentleman has given in support of this motion, that the question, as he brings it before the House, has two aspects. One is in relation to the Ontario Bank; and the