

the evidence taken and reports of the investigation held by H. P. Duchemin in regard to same, with a detailed statement of the expenses of such investigation."

I think that is what the hon. member read from. The Order of the House called for a detailed statement of the expenses of the investigation. On making inquiries in the Customs Department with reference to this return, I find that the official of the department took this account of Mr. Duchemin for \$126.55, and, as the hon. member for North Cape Breton had asked for a return for each of the men named in these charges, the official divided this account equally, or nearly equally, amongst these cases, and in that form the return was laid on the table. The only way the official could come to a conclusion as to what the costs were in the several cases was to divide the account equally in the way I have indicated.

Mr. McKENZIE: The minister will be surprised to find that the accounts put down so much for ferry, so much for dinner, etc., in each bill. I do not understand how the officers of the department could do that.

Mr. REID: The accounts laid on the table were: "Allowance for living expenses, 5 days, \$15," and so on.

Mr. McKENZIE: Will the minister give the details of the six accounts to which I referred?

Mr. REID: I am giving the hon. member the information which I have in connection with the Customs Department; I am informed that the account was divided up as I have stated. The hon. member says that Mr. Duchemin, in connection with an investigation held on one day, the 6th, charged for six days' work. If the hon. member will refer to Mr. Duchemin's letter of June 21, he will see that on September 2 Mr. Duchemin travelled from Sydney to Sydney mines, conferred with Mr. McCormick, arranged docket and so on.

Mr. McKENZIE: That has nothing to do with the case I am dealing with.

Mr. REID: I am surprised that the hon. gentleman should make that statement. Mr. Duchemin said in his letter that he was travelling, serving subpoenas, and so on, on those different days.

Mr. McKENZIE: I was present at the inquiry on the 2nd at Sydney Mines and Sydney, which are only twelve miles distant from Big Bras d'Or.

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

Mr. REID: Mr. Duchemin says that on the 2nd he was conferring with Mr. McCormick.

Mr. McKENZIE: But the Order in Council does not allow him anything for that.

Mr. REID: I disagree with the hon. gentleman in that respect.

Mr. McKENZIE: For any preliminaries he gets nothing.

Mr. REID: I do not wish to be unfair to the hon. member, but as I understand the Order in Council, if a commissioner occupies his time serving subpoenas and travelling long distances to confer with parties who know something about the matter under consideration, he certainly is entitled to remuneration for the time so occupied.

Mr. McKENZIE: If the minister will pardon me—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has put his case before the House. It is competent for the minister to make his reply; I do not think it is competent for the hon. gentleman to enter into a discussion of the matter.

Mr. REID: In his letter Mr. Duchemin states that he was employed on the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 13th yet he charges only for services on the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th, six days. The records of the department show that he was employed on the 9th, which is the day upon which he made out and sent in his last report. Mr. Duchemin did not send in any false statements. He sent in a statement of accounts for the days upon which he was, in my opinion, fairly and honestly employed in connection with the several cases which he had under consideration. For his services on those occasions he was entitled to remuneration. I feel that it is unfair for any member to do anything which would give the people of the province of Nova Scotia the impression that Mr. Duchemin committed a fraudulent act. He did not do so, if he had he would not have been paid the accounts which he rendered for his services in connection with these investigations.

Mr. CARROLL: Mr. Duchemin has been publicly charged in Nova Scotia with fraud in connection with this matter.

Mr. REID: I have never heard of anything of the kind. If a charge of fraud was made against Mr. Duchemin, it is difficult