

dence from Halifax, from the very point where this work was done. I will prove, by testimony, to the hon. gentlemen of this House that these charges were not only extravagant but scandalous. I have shown that the cost was increased from \$4,000 a year to over \$12,000, and I have shown, on the authority of the late Postmaster General, that none of these extra costs were involved by change of service. If any further testimony is required upon the point, I shall show that the *Citizen Publishing Company* was brought before the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, and that the matter was referred to a Committee. I have the report of that Committee, signed by six gentlemen, three of whom are strong supporters of the present Government, and one of them now a member of that Government—the hon. gentleman who represents Yarmouth—and whose independence and honesty can be vouched for—and friends of the company against which the charge is brought. This Committee say:—

"That said printing has been enjoyed almost wholly by the proprietors of the following papers, viz: *The Acadian Recorder*, the *Morning Chronicle* and the *Citizen*.

"Your Committee feel they have been unable, owing to the pernicious system by which the public printing has been performed to arrive at the exact amount paid by the Province for that purpose, but that the sum is very large, and has not varied to any great extent since 1867 in the prices charged.

"Your Committee wish to call attention to the fact that, thus far in their researches, they find \$26,582.50 has been paid out the last year for this service, yet the Financial Returns laid upon the table of the House, show only a cost of \$6,416.

"While referring to the inferior quality of the work done in some cases, we cannot but seriously invite the attention of the Legislature to the enormous prices charged for this service, as shown by the tabulated statement hereto annexed, which has been carefully compiled."

This Committee of five gentlemen, three of whom were strong supporters of the present Local Government, and three of whom were closely in alliance with the *Citizen Publishing Company* proprietors, had witnesses brought before them and examined them on all the points. They brought forward the evidence of persons who could speak to the value of the work done,

and they have appended the evidence to their report in order to show the enormous charges paid by the Government. And then they show that for 2,400 copies of public documents, the *Citizen Publishing Co.*, Messrs. Jones, Vail & Co., for work, the mean estimated cost of which was \$166, charge \$1,100. I am in a position to give authentic testimony as to the charges made by the *Citizen Publishing Company*, and—

MR. SPEAKER said he thought the testimony would hardly be relevant.

MR. TUPPER: Having given the evidence of the late Postmaster General am I not in order, when that is controverted—am I not right in showing that by the unanimous report of the Committee of the Legislature, comprising the friends of Messrs. Jones and Vail—three of their friends—the evidence is correct. It is stated that \$4,850 are charged for work which would only cost \$1,825. If you say, Mr. Speaker, that this is irrelevant to this matter, I will at once close that branch of the subject. But I think I shall not close before I have been able to adduce evidence, clear and satisfactory evidence, to every gentleman on both sides of this House, that one of the most scandalous transactions for which this Government or any Government could be arraigned, is the fact that they permitted one of their followers in the Government to take out of the Treasury over \$24,000 of public money in violation of the law and for a service which the present Postmaster General declares to have cost the country fifty per cent. more than it ought to cost and which I shall endeavour to show was more than fifty per cent. over what the cost of work would be in the city of Halifax, where that work was done. I am quite willing to leave that branch of the subject. But why is it that these gentlemen, who search the whole of the country for fit supporters, seem unwilling to bring a gentleman into the Government as a colleague unless he has been qualified for association with them by transactions of such a character as this. I have stated that the hon. Mr. Ross was driven out of this Government without any cause being assigned, in a more harsh and