

40 hours without intermission, at the risk of their lives, and were the means of saving about \$100,000 worth of property. It is unnecessary to add that such extra exertions and risk required every care and stimulant to excite endeavors

I have, &c,

FRED BROWN,

Chairman

The following are the certificates and letters referred to in the foregoing letter of Mr Brown:—

Office of Board of Works, }
Halifax, May 6, 1867. }

A supply of liquors for cabin stores was always put on board the government vessels by the Board of Works under the late government. These liquors were not charged in the accounts of the department as liquors, but appeared under the names of other articles, such as tea, beef, pork, &c Under the present administration, liquors have been included in the charge for cabin stores.

(Signed) J B McNAB,
Clerk B W.

I beg to state that members of the Board of Works under former governments furnished supplies to the government by contract and otherwise in large quantities, as will appear by the accounts.

(Signed) J B McNAB.

We beg to certify that Mr John Pugh purchased manilla rope from us in the months of May, June, August, and October, 1866, at 15, 15, and 16 cents per lb.

(Signed) E ALBRO & Co.
May 6th, 1867.

We beg to certify that Mr John Pugh purchased manilla rope of us in the months of May, October, and November, for which we charged him 16 cents per lb.

(Signed) H H FULLER & Co.
May 6th, 1867.

The Hon Provincial Secretary went on to say that he had been surprised to learn that the hon member for South Kings (Dr. Brown) had sat in the House and heard the charges made against his brother, although he was in a position to explain what had taken place. That hon gentleman, it appeared, was a passenger in the *Druid* when she went to Sable Island last summer, and was fully acquainted with the whole circumstances under which a great deal of property had been saved. The hon member was quite aware that men had only been induced to make unwonted exertions to save property by the means of the stimulants provided them. It would be in the knowledge of the House that the Government had been able to make the *Druid* exceedingly useful in the way of saving a very large amount of valuable property at Sable Island which would otherwise have been lost.

As respects the other charges made against the department, it would be seen that it had only allowed the usual practice in allowing the unpaid members to supply articles required for the public

service. Under the late Government, Mr. Gibson, a highly respectable merchant, had furnished supplies when a member of the Board. It would be seen that the articles furnished by Mr. Pugh, outside of his own business, were as cheap as they could be procured elsewhere. It would be also seen that the hon member for North Colchester (Mr McLelan) had been inaccurate in saying that the charge for "small stores" in July and August was \$1600, for the fact was that it did not exceed \$830 for the whole year.

Mr ANNAND was glad that the papers had been brought down, but he regretted that the hon member for North Colchester was not present to examine them. That hon member had given much attention to the public accounts, and was therefore in a position to deal with the question thoroughly. If it had been the custom for an officer of the late Government to supply liquors and charge them as articles of food, it was the first time he had ever heard of it. It did not say much for the vigilance of the gentlemen opposite that they had not, when in opposition, discovered the matter. The country expected more vigilance and economy from the present Government than they had hitherto shown, and no doubt they would pay the penalty for their neglect and wasteful extravagance of the people's money.

Mr TOBIN said that being acquainted with the two gentlemen whose names had been mentioned, Mr Pugh and Mr Gibson, he was in a position to say that in their business transactions these gentlemen were entitled to the utmost confidence. He believed that the prices charged in Mr Pugh's account were such as would have been charged to any private purchaser. He was not prepared to say that it was wise for officers of the government thus to deal with their departments, and he could challenge the government to show one transaction of a business kind with himself. Believing that the trifling profits did not compensate for the little feeling which was displayed on the examination of the accounts, he thought that the complaints made about the stores put on board the government steamers were exceedingly trivial.

Mr MILLER said that when he heard it stated that \$1600 had been spent in small stores during two months, he thought there was something demanding investigation, but the charge had dwindled down to insignificance when it was found that the amount was only \$600 for the whole season. He was in a position to state that the expenditure was essential. He had visited Sable Island during the summer and Mr Pugh, who happened to be on board, was almost incessant in his exertions to save property, and had succeeded in saving property to a large amount, although he had not the inducement of the slightest remuneration. The captain of the *Druid* had also astonished him by the energy which he displayed. A large number of men had been kept at work on the Island night and day, and being continually wet and hard worked, it could easily be understood that stimulants were essential for them.

Dr BROWN said that he had also visited Sable Island last summer, and had seen a large amount of hard service done there. The supply of wine