

ally decided by you at the present time, without your looking into the question more closely.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The procedure, no doubt, followed by Mr. Blake was under the practice referred to by Dr. Bourinot in his work, at page 536 :

A practice has grown up in the House of allowing the introduction of resolutions by private members, when they do not directly involve the expenditure of public money, but simply express an abstract opinion on a matter which may necessitate a future grant. As this is a question not always understood, it may be explained that such resolutions, being framed in general terms, do not bind the House to future legislation on the subject, and are merely intended to point out to the Government the importance and necessity of such expenditure.

There is the distinction, I submit. The Bill the hon. gentleman has now in hand does not ask the House to bind itself to a mere expression of opinion, but it asks the House to commit itself to specific legislation which involves directly a charge upon the Crown.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would submit also, that as the measure of my hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) is directed to the object of materially reducing the burdens of the people, that it is well within the purview of any member of this House. I grant you he cannot add to the burdens of the people by his Bill, but if he can materially reduce those burdens, he makes out a strong case why he is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER. If the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies) desires that I should look further into this question, I have no objection to doing so. I may tell him, however, that my opinion is very decided with regard to it at present, and it will require strong evidence to convince me I am not right with regard to the position I have taken.

Mr. CAMPBELL moved the adjournment of the debate.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair, and the House adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 6th June, 1895.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ST. THOMAS, ONT., POST OFFICE.

Mr. CASEY asked, What additions have been made to the salaries of the postmaster and of each of the employees in the post office at St. Thomas, Ont., within a year, and when ?

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.)

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No changes have been made in the salaries of the postmaster and employees in the post office at St. Thomas during last year.

### CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT—SPECIAL EMPLOYEES.

Mr. CASEY asked, 1. What are the names of all the persons, not members of the permanent Civil Service, who have been or are now employed by the Customs Department during the past five years in the manner of and for the purposes described in the answer given by the Controller of Customs to a question on 30th May ult., as follows :—

Mr. WALLACE. I do not know that any individual is so employed at the present time who is not a member of the Civil Service. It is only when an important question arises at a time when our regular staff is fully occupied, or when a question is so technical in its nature as to render advisable the employment of one technically qualified to make the investigation, that individuals might be employed temporarily in this connection.

2. During what periods has each been employed ? 3. What class, or classes, of merchandise has each made investigations or reports in regard to ? 4. In what country or countries has each been employed ? 5. What pay or allowance has been given to each ? 6. What was the occupation of each at the time of his employment ? 7. Which, if any, continued, during the time of his employment, to do business as a manufacturer of merchandise of the same classes as those in regard to which he was or is employed to investigate or report, or of similar kinds, or to act as the agent or employee of such manufacturers ; or is now so doing business, or acting in such capacity ? 8. What are the names of all other persons, not members of the permanent Civil Service, who have been employed during the said period to report to or advise the Department of Customs in regard to the value or classification of merchandise, and what are the particulars in regard to them as above asked for in paragraphs 1 to 8, inclusive of this question ?

Mr. WALLACE. 1. F. S. Belton, William P. Atkinson, and T. J. Hawthorne. 2. Mr. Belton has been employed for the last eight years as secretary or assistant to Mr. Chief Inspector McMichael, and a portion of his duties has always been to investigate prices of various classes of merchandise. Mr. Atkinson was employed from the 3rd to the 30th April, 1895, and Mr. Hawthorne, on several occasions during the period between the 17th July and the 13th November, 1894. 3. Mr. Belton has made investigations and reports in regard to a great variety of goods. Mr. Atkinson was employed to investigate the prices of bicycles, information on that subject being necessary, and the officers usually employed at such work being otherwise engaged. Similarly, Mr. Hawthorne