

who are appointed at \$100 and \$200 a year doing nothing else for a living. I fully recognise the fact that a large importer should not be a preventive officer, and in cases where I found officers were importing, no matter how small were their importations, I have intimated to them that they should resign. I have made enquiries into this case over and over again, and have found that Mr. Kearney is not a large importer, as represented but that, on the contrary, his purchases are principally made from the wholesale merchants in St. John.

Mr. IRVINE. I never said, in the House or out of it, that Mr. Kearney was a large importer. I stated that he is a resident merchant in the village of Florenceville, and he is a very respectable man. But what I wish to point out is that two officers are there, the one at \$300 and the other at \$200, to collect \$500. I think Mr. Kearney was not appointed for the purpose of preventing smuggling.

Mr. BOWELL. For what then?

Mr. IRVINE. I will not give my reasons just now.

Mr. BOWELL. He was appointed for no other purpose, so far as the Department in Ottawa is concerned. If there were other reasons on the part of those who recommended him, I know nothing of them.

Mr. IRVINE. I have made application to know who recommended Mr. Kearney, and could not get the information. The Minister of Customs refused to give it.

Mr. COSTIGAN. Mr. Schooley is a strong and warm supporter of the hon. gentleman, and Mr. Kearney is a strong opponent, and in this lies the secret of the hon. gentleman's continued attacks. He admits Mr. Kearney is a respectable man, but in order to make a case he speaks of his being placed in a little, insignificant place. The hon. gentleman is not doing credit to one of the brightest and most enterprising towns in New Brunswick, and a very important port. I think the hon. gentleman ought, by this time, to give up these uncalled-for attacks, which he makes every Session, on a gentleman whom he admits to be highly respectable.

Mr. WELDON. The hon. Minister of Inland Revenue says the hon. member for Carleton is opposed to this gentleman because he happens to be of a different shade of opinion from himself. Mr. Kearney is an entirely new appointment. I think it is incompatible with the position of preventive officer to have a man who has been a large importer, and who, while he may be a good preventive officer against other persons, may not be against himself.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. member for St. John—I will not say, begs the question—but puts into the mouth of the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Irvine) words which he did not use. I was under the impression that he charged Mr. Kearney with being a large importer from the United States, but the hon. gentleman says he did not know anything of the kind. If he purchases all his goods from any part of Canada the position of preventive officer is not incompatible with his occupation. It happens that Mr. Kearney is not of the political stripe of my hon. friends on the other side, and he gets the enormous sum of \$200 a year, and we waste an hour in discussing the question of whether he should be there or not. I told the hon. gentleman he was put there on the report of the inspectors. The only report I have is that the Centreville office is not required, and Mr. Schooley has been either recommended to be placed on the retired list or to be removed to another place where he would be useful. If that is so, I may act on the suggestion of the hon. member for Carleton, and either place Mr. Schooley upon the retired list or move him somewhere else. Of course, it is not to be supposed that I can visit every \$100 port in the Dominion; but Mr. Wolfe, the special

Mr. BOWELL.

inspector, reports that the Centreville office is not necessary in the interests of the revenue, but that the Florenceville office is. As the hon. gentleman is so anxious that we should economise, I can save the \$300 a year now paid to Mr. Schooley by acting upon his suggestion and removing him.

Mr. IRVINE. I am not sure but that Mr. Kearney and Mr. Schooley are both my personal friends. There are any number of gentlemen in my county who say that Mr. Kearney voted for me at the last election, and I am not prepared to say he did not. The preventive officers in the county of Carleton are very discreet. I do not know one who has interfered with politics, and I was always as personally friendly with Mr. Kearney as I am with the Minister of Customs. I have never said a disrespectful word of Mr. Kearney, but I distinctly state that there should not be two officers on that road.

Mr. SCRIVER. I hope the Minister of Customs was not serious in expressing the opinion that there is nothing incompatible in a man who is engaged in business on our side of the frontier holding the position even of preventive officer in Customs. While it might be true that this Mr. Kearney bought most of his goods in a Canadian city—and on any portion of the frontier, as matters are now, country storekeepers are likely to buy their supplies in cities in the Dominion—still, at certain times, at any rate, these men are in the habit of importing more or less from the other side of the frontier; and I say, from my own experience, that it would be an unfortunate thing if the rule hitherto followed, of not appointing men engaged in business as preventive officers, were departed from.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman would have been a little more fair if he had added what I really said. I said that, where a man was not an importer, and did not import, there was nothing incompatible; but the rule has been, in most cases, in fact, it is a rule of the Department, that if a man is known to be an importer, no matter to how small an extent, not to appoint him, because the temptation is too great.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would point out that any man who is carrying on a mercantile business may at any moment become an importer. I have understood the rule hitherto to be that, although a man receiving less than \$400 a year was not prohibited from following any other occupation, he was prohibited from following mercantile occupations, and that if he was a merchant, whether importing at the moment or not, he could not hold a position in the Customs. That, during my lamented friend Mr. Burpee's tenure of office, was the rule which he informed me he adhered to, and I agree with my hon. friend from Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver) that it would be very unfortunate indeed, if, even under the circumstances stated by the Minister, that rule was departed from. The trouble is, that if you depart from it in one case you expose yourself to pressure in fifty different cases.

Mr. BOWELL. I recognise the force of that. I would ask the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Irvine) what business Mr. Schooley follows?

Mr. IRVINE. Mr. Schooley was a merchant when he was appointed, and he was notified by the Minister that he must either give up his business or his office, and he gave up the former. He is a justice of the peace, and attends to his business.

Mr. BOWELL. His salary is only \$300 a year.

Mr. WELDON. With regard to the Campo Bello district, I understood a collector was to be appointed at Grand Manan.

Mr. BOWELL. A preventive officer has been appointed there, a Mr. Kelly, during the busy season, at a salary of \$300.